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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Volume 1, Issue 14
May 5, 1986

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THE STAR WARS BEGIN —NBA STYLE

SPECIAL PLAYOFF ISSUE

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THE ARENA

K.C. and Kip

The Golden Gate City

Kip Jones, son of Celtics Coach K.C. Jones, will be leaving New York base of the Sheraton Hotel to assume a management position in the chain's operation in San Francisco. Jones, a 1985 graduate of Bentley College in Waltham, and a former basketball player there, has worked in the marketing department for Sheraton in New York.

Jones will be the training co-ordinator of the program overseeing a university program; heads of departments of the Sheraton, for example, Food and Beverage, Front Office Management, will be teaching comprehensive courses of what makes up each area. Kip will co-ordinate this flagship training program.

He was captain of the Bentley team, and tinkered briefly with the idea of trying out for professional basketball. But the lessons of competitive sports endure. "It's a pressure position," the young Jones commented last week, "and I believe competitive athletics help train you to cope with those kinds of demands.

"Plus the Sheraton attempts to apply a team mentality in accomplishing tasks. Team sports is invaluable training for that."

Susan Walton

Susan Walton, In the East

Bill Walton, earlier in his career, had voiced objections to moving east. His love of the west, specifically California, remains. Yet according to Walton, he was responsible for initiating the trade negotiations resulting in the exchange of Cedric Maxwell for himself last September.

Now that the family has moved, how does Susan Walton, Bill's wife, see the east? "We've been very happy here," said the 5-9, brown-haired, attractive woman. "I've enjoyed Cambridge---the environment, the biking, the running.

"It's similar politically, because we have made an attempt to find people who share similar political perspectives as we have. I wouldn't have expected any different, really."

What was unexpected, ironically, was their active political support of Joseph Kennedy in the senatorial race. "I didn't think we would get directly involved so quickly," she said. "But we're pleased."

Future Issues Schedule

ISSUE 15 — MAILED - May 5	ISSUE 19 — MAILED - Aug. 25
ISSUE 16 — MAILED - May 27	ISSUE 20 — MAILED - Sept. 29
ISSUE 17 — MAILED - June 23	ISSUE 1 (VOL. 2) — MAILED - Oct. 13
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MAY 5, 1986

Cover...

The NBA begins its second season with the Celtics and Lakers again favored to meet in the Finals. Pictured here is Larry Bird trying to surgically remove the trophy from Magic Johnson. If this doesn't work, you can count on Larry to do it on the basketball court.

Features...

4 ..... *Overnite Sleepers*
They call themselves the "Real Celtics Fans" - they wait outside the Garden for days for the chance to buy Celtics playoff tickets.

6 ..... *Contender Summaries*
The probable contenders who might get in the Celtics way are...

8 ..... *The Greatest Celtics Playoff Games*
Tod Rosensweig gives us a look at the best of the best...not an easy task!

10 ... *Personalities on the Celtics*
A number of local personalities give their views on the Celtics.

13 ..... *The Media Picks*
Its unanimous, the Celtics will take on the Lakers for all the marbles.

15 . *The Celtics are in the Lottery*
It's finally official - using a draft choice aquired from Seattle the Celtics will have a chance for the No. 1 choice.

23 ..... *Bay State Bombardiers*
This year the CBA team from Worcester, fashioned an amazing turnaround.

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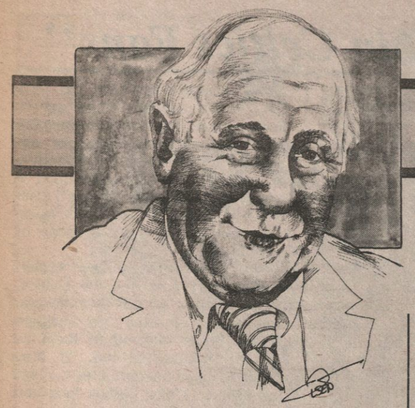

Ask Red Auerbach

EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of Celtics Pride. If you have a question for Red, please send it to Celtics Pride, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: When Johnny Most retires from announcing Celtics games on WRKO, do you think the Celtics should retire his name?

Tony Reis, Taunton, MA

RED'S ANSWER: We'll make that decision when the situation occurs. But I'll tell you this -- Johnny Most is one of the main people responsible for the current popularity of the Celtics, and we'll never under-estimate his value to the team or his loyalty to us. Johnny is an institution here, and I'll be sure that we give him the appropriate attention and credit he deserves when he retires.

QUESTION: Who was the first black player in the NBA and what team did he play for?

Donald Roquemore, Oakland, Calif.

RED'S ANSWER: Chuck Cooper was the first black player in the league and I'm proud to say that he played for the Celtics. He was our second round draft choice in 1950 out of Duquesne University. He played for us for four years, and he was a pretty good player, averaging almost 7 points and as many rebounds over his career with us. He went on to play for a couple more years with Milwaukee, St. Louis and Ft. Wayne after his career with the Celtics.

QUESTION: Who was the first black head coach in the NBA? Was it Bill Russell?

Donald Roquemore, Oakland, Calif.

RED'S ANSWER: You're right, it was Bill Russell. When I retired from coaching in 1966 to be the General Manager fulltime, I asked Bill if he'd like to try his hand at coaching. It was difficult for him, not only being the first black coach but also being a player-coach, but he did a terrific job for us for the 3 years he served as player-coach, winning championships his last two years. When he retired as a player, he also retired as a coach.

QUESTION: In the third quarter of a game last year, a fight broke out between Larry Bird and Julius Erving. How many points did Larry have, and how many did Dr. J have?

Adalberto Gonzalez

RED'S ANSWER: I remember that game very well, and I've since looked up the box score to answer your question. The game was on November 9, 1984 at the Boston Garden and was ultimately won by the Celtics, 130-119. In his 30 minutes, Larry had 42 points and 7 rebounds. In 23 minutes, Julius had 6 points and 3 rebounds. It was an unfortunate fight between two great players, especially since I understand that they're friends off the court.

QUESTION: What is the rule that limits player substitutions in the NBA? Many times a player will be trying to enter the game and the official will not allow him in.

Dan Bernbaum, Austin, Texas

RED'S ANSWER: You can substitute as many people in the pros as you want, except after a 20-second time out. After a 20-second time out, you're only allowed one substitution. When an official won't allow a player into the game who has been waiting to do so, it's probably because that player has not yet checked in with the official scorer on the sidelines. A few years ago, the league painted a white box on the sideline in each arena at halfcourt; every player who wants to check into a game should be waiting in that box before the horn blows, and then he should wait until the official recognizes him and motions him into the game.

QUESTION: What are your feelings on a minor league system for the NBA?

Vance Anderson, Silver Spring, MD

RED'S ANSWER: I'm in favor of one. In fact, we have one now, called the CBA (Continental Basketball Association). The CBA has been fairly successful and has provided the NBA with many players, including Gerald Henderson, who played several years with us. The CBA provides borderline players with professional experience and keeps them in shape so that they will be ready if an NBA team needs them.

QUESTION: Who's the best -- Larry Bird or Magic Johnson?

Denise Orrell, Shutesbury, MA

RED'S ANSWER: It's very hard to compare great players when they play different positions, as Larry and Magic do. If I had to pick one for my team, I'd pick Larry Bird, and that's not just because he's playing here right now. But they're two of the greatest players ever at their positions, and I'd love to have been able to have them both on my team.

Playoff Tickets Bring Out "The Best in Celtics Fans"

By Mike Swartz

If you happen to be walking by the Boston Garden some night at about 3 A.M. and see a mob of people milling around outside it, don't be alarmed. These people are harmless. They are Boston Celtics fans.

No, the Celtics have not changed the starting time of their games to 3 A.M. These fans line up several times each year to earn the right to buy coveted tickets to see the Green and White in person. Recently, more than 500 fans waited in line outside the Garden, some for as long as 72 hours, to purchase the last 1,500 strips of tickets to the 1986 playoffs. They missed work and sleep, they endured the elements. Some traveled from as far as Albany, New York just for a chance to see their team in person. Now, the average person would think that this kind of activity is crazy. But the average fan does not have Celtics playoff tickets.

"People say we're crazy" noted one fan, "but when the game's that day, they say 'boy you've got tickets'. I flash them right in front of their face. Then they're jealous." "People are envious ultimately when the tickets are in our hands," added another. "People think we're crazy for coming down here but they're going to change their tune when we're holding the tickets."

These fans, many of whom have waited in long Celtics ticket lines before, were prepared for the long days and nights. Everybody brought blankets or lawn chairs. Many brought some other conveniences of home like televisions or radios. Some even decorated their temporary homes. The Kinney family not only brought with them a couch, table, a 'fluffy chair' but decorated the wall behind them with replicas of the Celtics' championship banners and of the Boston Garden clock.

Why do these people give up the comforts of home for two or three days? The explanation most people gave was, quite simple, Celtic Pride. The first people in line, Bob DeSimone, Gene Crowley and Chuck McGarity, all from New Hampshire arrived more than three days before tickets went on sale because of "pride for the Celtics." "It's hard to describe, commented Kathleen Downey from New Jersey. "Once you became a Celtic fanatic, which is what we are, you just can't get away from it." "It's just so exciting." "Tradition, pride excellence...you can see it there," remarked Steve Strock from Albany. "You can go into the Garden when there isn't a soul around and just look up at the banners and hear the old footsteps... It's that wanting to be an excellent team, to be better than anyone else, to be the best...It's consistantly here and the fans love it." One of Boston's veteran fans, Rose, age 74, felt the Celtics Pride reached a higher level than the average fan's pride for the average team. "An analogy would be to say I'm not proud of my family or my community. You take pride in that which you enjoy, respect, admire..." According to another fan, the quality of the Celtics is a prime source of pride. "Is there another team like the Celtics? What is a more perfect team? There isn't a better team anywhere in sports. They're a pleasure to watch, a joy to watch. They stand for basketball. There's nothing like the excitment of being in the Garden. That's why I sleep out." One member of the Garden's security force, observing the large crowd explained that "Everyone's got their own pride. A lot of people take pride in the Celtics. It's one of the good things you can take pride in in Boston."

He's number one! First in Line. *Photo by Ted Dully, Boston Globe*

For some, the excitement of watching the games in person makes the waiting in line for days worthwhile. "There's nothing like being in the Garden at playoff time. The noise, the tension, the excitment in the air is just unreal", remarked one of the faithful. "It's like nothing I've ever experienced before." This excitment makes these fans feel a part of the action. "This is the third year I've waited for tickets so I feel very much part of it," exclaimed one fan. According to Toby Goldberg of Arlington "The excitment and thrill of the championship, tradition; it's great to be a part of it. Any time they win you feel a part of it, that you're part of the victory, but especially when you do something like this. If it weren't for the fans, they wouldn't win all the time. It wouldn't be the same. They need us." Downey feels that these people are special. "It's not that the people that have season tickets aren't fans, but these are the true fans out here and we are the ones that go through hell trying to get in to see the Celtics. Sometimes you get very frustrated because you have to do this if you want to get in. But there's nothing in the world like this, anywhere. I don't know of any other team that draws a crowd quite like this."

Spending several days in line outside the Garden is not as inconvenient as it may appear. In fact many people actually enjoy the party atmosphere. "It's a combination; getting tickets and having a party. It's a good crowd. We're having a hell of a time," remarked one tired fan. "It's fun," noted another. "You get to know people. We've made some nice friends here. They know our enthusiasm. We share it." "Everybody's excited and everybody's having a good time," added Goldberg. "I think we're all a little bit looney for being here, but we've all got a sense of spirit."

Not all of the fans were motivated by their desire to see the Celtics. Some planned to sell their tickets. The reactions about the scalpers varied. Some referred to them as "scum," others felt that "If they spend the time out here they can sell the tickets. We're Celtics fans and we'll go to see them."

Most of these very tired people enjoyed this unusual experience. Most felt that the crowd was orderly, the proceedure organized and the security helpful. Most perferred this method of ticket distribution to a lottery type of system. Suzzane Mederious of Maynard found that getting tickets was her reward for waiting in line. "If you have a lottery, what about the people that sleep out. They might not get tickets. Most people won't do this. We're the true fans."

The overwhelming feeling exclaimed by these fans was pride. Pride in their team and pride in themselves for their perseverance and desire. "You look at these people and listen to them talk about the old days and how many years they've had their Celtics tickets," said Strock. "Look at the Celtics ticket waiting line. Look at the history of champions. Look at Red Auerbach as a person. Celtic Pride definitely exists and it is about as visable as anything else you'll ever find in Boston."

So, there is no reason for alarm when you see this mob. They are not unrully. They are just very devoted fans who take pride in and feel a part of the success of the most successful franchise in sports.

Springfield, Boston University Win Schick Super Hoops Finals

Starting before and concluding during halftime of the Celtics game on April 11th against the Cleveland Cavaliers was the New England regional championship of Schick Super Hoops, Hoops, the largest college intramural basketball event in the nation. Schick Super Hoops began in November with more than 30,000 teams from over 700 schools competing nationally. The regional championships have been held in 16 NBA arenas and six college arenas.

The Schick Super Hoops is a three-on-three basketball competition. Both the women's and men's finals were held at the Boston Garden on April 11th. In the men's finals, Boston University beat Clark University; in the women's finals, Springfield defeated Bryant.

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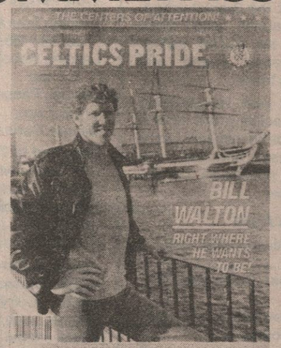

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Who are the Celtics Contenders?

The Celtics finished the regular season with the best record in the NBA. Included in this achievement was the feat of defeating every team during the season series. The Celts lost two games to only two teams this season, the second losses incurred by the 76ers and the Nets during the final week of the season, after Boston had clinched the regular season title.

Following are thumbnail sketches of the Celtics' possible playoff foes

The Probable Opponents

Chicago Bulls

Leading Scorer: Orlando Woolridge, 21.3 ppg
Leading Rebounder: Sidney Green, 8.0 rpg
Leading Passer: Kyle Macy, 5.8 apg
Season Series: Celtics, 5-1.

Controversy. The Bulls mounted a strong drive through the stretch, because of the dominating play of Michael Jordan. The Bulls' management apparently considered slipping into the draft lottery, hiding Jordan and his fractured foot in the process. Jordan protested---loudly; his return sparked the final drive. Not to be overlooked is Orlando Woolridge's mid-year walkout, Macy's dissatisfaction with playing time.

Impact Players: They're on this team: Jordan is bonafide superstar material making those around him better. Woolridge has had some daring moments. Rookie Charles Oakley is a force off the boards.

Keys. In this series, the Celtics have won easily. Most of the dominance occuring because of the C's front court depth and experience. Jordan's return is important, but teams which change often during the year, as the Bulls have, ususally rarely regroup at the level of playoff competition.

Atlanta Hawks

Leading Scorer, Dominique Wilkins, 29.8 ppg (NBA Leading Scorer)
Leading Rebounder, Kevin Willis, 10.0 rpg
Leading passer, Glenn "Doc" Rivers, 8.0 apg
Season Series, Celtics, 5-0

Superman's Secret Identity, Super 'Nique. Hawks' season turned when Mike Fratello, Hawks' Coach, pulled Wilkins aside and convinced Wilkins to be team-oriented. He still scores, and is this surprising young team's leader.

Against Boston. The Hawks have played superbly this year, the 6th best record in the league. Boston has controlled the frontcourt (Bird vs. Wilkins; Parish Willis; McHale-Rollins; Walton-Carr). It's been Experience vs. Apprentice thus far this season.

The Omni. The C's haven't lost in Atlanta since '81-'82, another of the amazing streaks in the Bird era. If Atlanta wins at home, the youngsters will sky even higher. This could be a tough series.

Detroit Pistons

Leading Scorer, Isiah Thomas, 21.2 ppg
Leading Rebounder, Bill Laimbeer, 13.1 rpg (NBA Leading Rebounder)
Leading Passer, Isiah Thomas, 10.5 apg
Season Series: Boston 5-1

Sky Pilot. Introducing Larry Joe Bird. He of the two-handed direct pass, above the Piston frontline, to Robert Parish, Kevin McHale, and Bill Walton for repeated easy baskets in this series. McHale is Kent Benson's nightmare.

Chuck Daly. Daly is one of the best coaches in the league but if he had his preference, he would be coaching Barkley and Co. in Philly.

Isiah and Vinnie. K.C. Jones idolizes Thomas's complete game. And Vinnie Johnson seemingly has adopted a piece of the parquet. But it's unlikely the backcourt can carry the Pistons to four wins over the Celts.

Philadelphia 76ers

Leading Scorer, Moses Malone, 23.8 ppg
Leading Rebounder, Charles Barkley, 12.7 rpg
Leading Passer, Maurice Cheeks, 9.1 apg
Season Series, Celtics, 4-2

Moses. Will he return for the playoffs? How effective will he be, begoggled and headbanded? Parish was the Chief last season when the Celts won a 4-1 Eastern Conference Final. The Celtics' forwards and centers must play well.

Tradition, Tradition! These teams go to war, whenever they are matched up. In recent seasons, as Bird's peaked and the Doctor has played a more supportive role, the Celtics have been the favorite. Especially with Andrew Toney disabled.

Doctor J. According to Erving, the main man of the Sixers is Barkley. Similar to the Hawks: until they prove they can fly among the best, youthful superstars must wait. But Barkley's power/speed/jumping game is ominous.

Milwaukee Bucks

Leading Scorer, Sidney Moncrief, 20.2 ppg
Leading Rebounder, Terry Cummings, 8.6 rpg
Leading Passer, Paul Pressey, 7.0 apg
Season Series, Celtics, 5-0

The Nelson Factor. With Jones, Riley, Daly, and Fitch, Nelson is among the best coaches in the league. But he has yet to win The Ring.

Point Forward. Paul Pressey is a Michael Cooper type, without the supporting cast or the 3-point range. He, Sidney Moncrief, and Terry Cummings ignite the Bucks' swingman attack. Defense, speed, and shooting mark this team.

Alton Lister. Last year, Nelson sung his praises, appreciating the efforts Lister made to improve himself. Since Bob Lanier retired however, the Bucks have not proved to be the threat they had been.

Houston Rockets

Leading Scorer, Akeem Olajuwon, 23.5 ppg
Leading Rebounder, Ralph Sampson, 11.2 rpg
Leading Passer, Lewis Lloyd, 3.0 apg
Season Series, Celtics, 2-0

The Twin Towers, III. Wherever Bill Fitch goes, he constructs twin towers (Chones-Thurmond; Parish-McHale). Potentially, Sampson-Akeem is the best. Seemingly, he has played Sampson more at center before injuries interfered.

Lewis Lloyd, Point Guard. And the Easter Bunny comes at Christmas. It appears Robert Reid will be the Pressey type Point Forward for the Rockets.

Being There. Sampson and Olajuwon have experienced the pressure of the NCAA Final Four, Reid has played in the NBA finals, and Fitch has won it. They could upset the Lakers.

Los Angeles Lakers

Leading Scorer, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 23.3 ppg
Leading Rebounder, Maurice Lucas, 7.1 rpg
Leading Passer, Earvin Johnson, 12.7 apg
Season Series, Celtics, 2-0

Shootout in The City of Angels. Ask K.C. Jones what he thinks of the 2-3-2 format, and then run for cover. The Celtics established invincibility in the Garden, but Jones continues to think the Lakers have an edge.

Magic or Kareem. Larry Bird against Magic Johnson is the best other than center rivalry in the history of the league, with Robertson-West. Yet, Abdul-Jabbar meant the difference last year. Parish and Walton are keys.

Worthy, with Fire in his Eyes. James Worthy and Kevin McHale emerged last season; Worthy and Maurice Lucas are bonafide enforcers. With the C's depth this season, they are able to match the Lakers' end-to-end attack.

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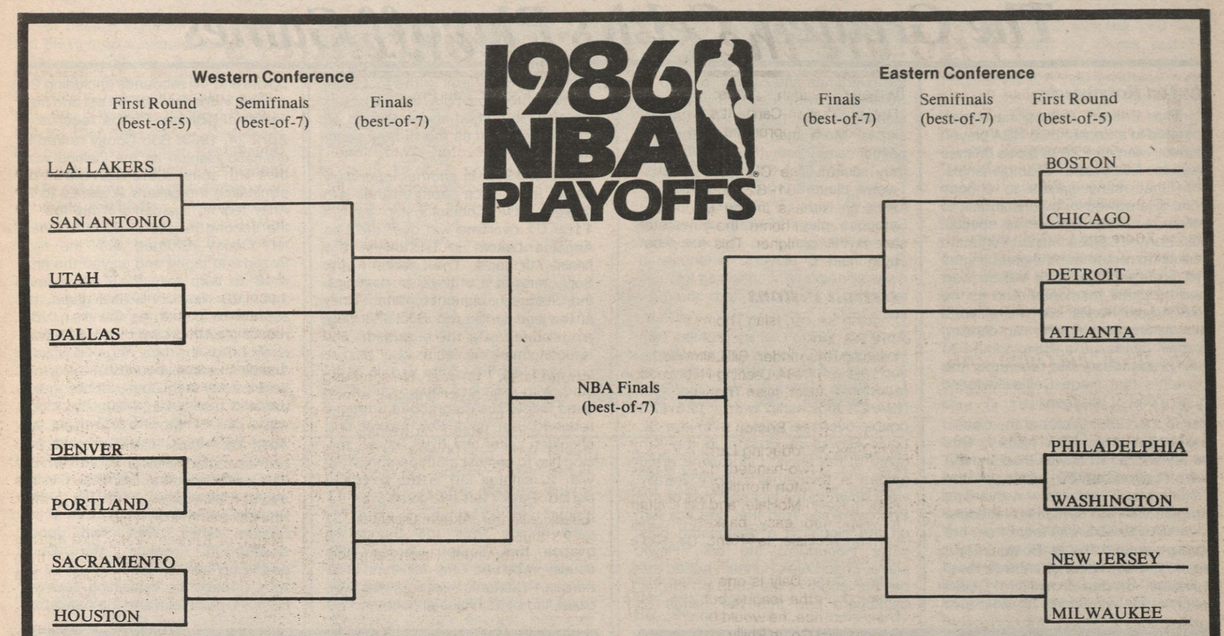

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The Greatest Celtics Playoff Games

By Tod Rosensweig

The Boston Celtics have participated in a total of 366 NBA playoff games, winning 220 of those on their way to 15 World Championships. With that many games to choose from, it is obviously a difficult task to isolate a small number as special. Still, any Celtics fans fortunate enough to remember the great games that are described here will be warmed by these memories. And as the 1986 team heads into the playoffs with visions of that 16th flag dancing in their heads, it is fitting tribute to their predecessors to remember the moments that made Celtic Pride so much a part of this team.

March 21, 1953: In one of the classic performances in NBA history, Bob Cousy scored what was then an NBA playoff record of 50 points, as the Celtics survived a 4-overtime struggle with the Syracuse Nationals, 111-105, to eliminate them from the opening round. It was Boston's first playoff series victory after three tries. A Boston Garden crowd of 11,058 watched Cousy score 25 points in the overtimes and overall, net 30 of 32 free throws, a record which still stands in NBA playoff and Celtics' annals. More than half of Boston's points came from the foul line, as they sank 57 of 64 charity tosses. Twelve players were disqualified on fouls (7 Nats, 5 Celtics), but 2 Syracuse players were allowed to stay in the game so that the team could field 5 players; whenever a disqualified player committed a foul, a technical was added onto the personal foul.

April 13, 1957: Led by rookies Tom Heinsohn (37 points, 23 rebounds) and Bill Russell (19 points, 32 rebounds), the Celtics won their first NBA Championship with a 125-123 double-overtime victory over the St. Louis Hawks at Boston in the 7th game of the finals. One of the great games in basketball history literally went down to the last seconds of the 2nd overtime. With that one tick left on the clock, in a designated play while inbounding the ball, Hawk player-coach Alex Hannum hurled the ball the length of the court off the far backboard and into the hands of teammate Bob Pettit in the foul lane; Pettit immediately put the ball back up, and his hurried shot bounced off the basket's rim as the buzzer sounded.

April 18, 1962: In another legendary game, the Celtics captured their 4th straight NBA Championship with a 110-107 overtime win over the Los Angeles Lakers in Boston in the finals' 7th game. The Lakers' Frank Selvy missed a chance to dethrone the champions when his 8-foot shot at the end of regulation hit the near rim, skipped over the basket, hit the far rim, then fell off as the buzzer sounded with the score tied. In overtime, with 4 Celtics fouled out, little-used Gene Guarilia grabbed a crucial rebound, set up a key basket and shackled Laker star Elgin Baylor, forcing him to commit a 6th personal foul with 2 minutes left in the overtime period. Baylor left the game with 41 points and 22 rebounds—and his ears ringing from the thundering ovation that Boston Garden fans usually reserved only for their local heroes. Boston's victory was, as usual, led by Bill Russell, who had 30 points and 40 rebounds (including 25 caroms in the first half) to set and tie a variety of NBA and Celtics' records.

April 24, 1963: Bob Cousy retired in dramatic fashion as the Celtics won their fifth consecutive NBA crown by eliminating the Lakers, 4 games to 2. After tearing ligaments in his foot in the second minute of the final quarter, Cousy returned with the foot frozen and taped and played the final 4:43 to help rally the Celtics to a 112-109 win. In his final game, he scored 18 points, as the then NBA record playoff crowd of 15,521 watched on at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. The final seconds of the game ticked away with Cousy dribbling the ball and then finally killing the clock with a jubilant heave to the rafters.

April 15, 1965: "Havlicek stole the ball" became the most quoted words in Celtics' history as the Celtics edged Philadelphia, 110-109, in the Boston Garden in the 7th game of the Eastern finals. With Sam Jones scoring 37 points, the Celts seemingly had the game wrapped up with 5 seconds remaining, owning both a 1-point lead and the basketball

out of bounds by their own basket. But Bill Russell's inbound pass hit the guide wire supporting the backboard, giving the 76ers a chance to end Boston's 6-year reign as champions. However, Hal Greer's inbound pass, intended for Chet Walker, was swatted by John Havlicek to Sam Jones, and Celtics broadcaster Johnny Most nearly fell from his perch high above courtside, screaming "Havlicek stole the ball! It's all over! It's all over!" The Celtics went on to defeat the Lakers in 5 games for the championship.

May 5, 1969: Two of the all-time Celtic greats, Bill Russell and Sam Jones, concluded their careers as the team won its 11th NBA Championship in 13 years. After having finished 4th during the regular season, the Celtics upset the Lakers, 4-3, in the finals, clinching the title with a 108-106 thriller in Los Angeles. Sam Jones scored 24 points before fouling out of his finale; Russell grabbed 21 rebounds and scored 6 points in bowing out as player-coach. No points were bigger, though, than 2 by Don Nelson with little more than a minute remaining in the game, after the Lakers had pared Boston's lead from 17 points to 1. With the 24-second clock about to expire and the title seemingly slipping away, Nelson's desperation 15-footer hit the back of the rim, bounced high in the air and dropped straight through the hoop to give the Celtics a 3-point lead. The Green then held on, spoiling Laker owner Jack Kent Cooke's planned victory celebration, which included a marching band and balloons raining from the rafters.

1984 brought a great celebration.

May 10, 1974: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar sunk a spectacular 15-foot sky hook over Hank Finkel with three seconds remaining in the second overtime period to give the Milwaukee Bucks a 102-101 victory in the 6th game of the NBA finals in Boston. The incredible shot evened the series at 3-3 and set up a final game showdown in Milwaukee. Jabbar's basket, his 33rd and 34th points of the night, spoiled John Havlicek's clutch corner shot over the leaping Jabbar with 8 seconds left that had given the Celtics a 1-point lead and the apparent championship. Two days later, the Celtics won their 12th championship, the first of the 2 in the Cowens era, with a 102-87 victory in Milwaukee.

June 4, 1976: Jo Jo White had 33 points and 9 assists, while playing 60 of the game's 63 minutes, and Dave Cowens added 26 points and 19 rebounds to lead the Celtics over the Phoenix Suns in triple-overtime, 128-126, in the 5th game of the finals at Boston Garden. In a game in which the ancient structure bristled with electric excitment, subs Glenn McDonald and Jim Ard made key third-overtime contributions to seal the win. Official Richie Powers was attacked on the Garden floor by a fan prematurely celebrating the victory in the 2nd overtime with 1 second left; an incredible Gar Heard jumper at the buzzer of that OT sent the game into the final overtime. When the dust had cleared, the victory was Bosotn's. The Celtics went on to clinch the title with an 87-80 win in Phoenix in the series finale.

May 1, 1981: Down 3-1 in their Eastern Conference Final series against the archrival Philadelphia 76ers, the Celtics were bidding to become only the 2nd team in NBA history to win the final 3 games of a series to overcome that deficit. They had won game #5 in dramatic fashion, scoring the last 8 points of the game. But the Spectrum jinx, an 11-game losing streak in the Sixers' building, made the prospect of victory bleak. And when the Green trailed by 15 points early in the 2nd half, there appeared to be little chance. But the Celtics outscored their foes, 26-14,

Continues on Page 21

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Boston Personalities: High Ratings for Celtics

Several Boston personalities were asked how they viewed the Celtics' playoff chances this season and in what way the Celtics were an influence in New England.

Jack Williams, Television News Anchor, WBZ: I think the Celtics are the most exciting team New England has had since the 1975 Red Sox. I think they've become more than a regional team; recently I was on vacation in Hawaii, and a lot of talk there, when sports related, was about the Celtics.

I think they'll win the championship, mostly due to their commitment to team play. I believe New England is strongly drawn to them because they love winners, particularly the sports audience. Too, I think the New England audience has an appreciation of history and they see it being made by this team. They have accompanied the economic resurgence in the area during the past several years and I think the people in our area identify with that, too.

Bob Woolf, Sports Attorney: I think the Celtics are not only the talk of New England, they are the talk of the nation and of the communication industry. I think they'll win the championship, certainly. The keys this year are the acquisition of Bill Walton, Jerry Sichting, and the youth and future of Sam Vincent. The importance of New England is in their tradition. This region is proud of the team. The Celtics are upbeat, as New England is right now.

Bruce Hurst, Red Sox Pitcher: I had some real reservations momentarily about the Celtics, particularly when my friend Danny Ainge called me the night before my start Opening Day. He had been in a fight with the 76ers that afternoon, and he got hit because he didn't keep his guard up. Then, the following day, we lost to the Tigers.

But I'm a Celtics fan and try to get over to the Garden when I'm here and we don't have a game. I think they play their sport the way team sports are meant to be played.

Robert Berry, Professor of Law, Boston College: I have been a season ticket holder for several years, and I appreciate the way the Celtics conduct their affairs as a team and as an organization. I think they have an outstanding chance to win the championship this season, particularly because of their depth.

Dr. Tom Cottle, Psychologist and Host of "Good Day", WCVB-TV: The Celtics **should** win, and I use the word 'should' with vigilance. In my mind, they are the favorites. But in the playoffs, there are tough teams and these are teams which get energized. The Celtics' incredible record could work against them---they could be persuaded they can win at halfmast, and they could lose. More than likely, however, they will be even more motivated.

What wins playoffs, anyway? It's a combination of emotion, talent, capacity, teamwork; based on these, the Celtics shouldn't have won it last year. They were down and injured. By the numbers, by stats, by common sense: they should win this year. But emotionally; if they fall apart for a week, they could be knocked out.

I believe the Celtics are an incredibly important part of New England. The morale of the region rises and falls with the Celts' fortunes. I think New Englanders have a concept of perfection --- and the Celtics model this in play on the floor.

Doug Flutie, Quarterback, Professional Football: I think the Celtics will go all the way, capping off a magnificent season.

I also think the Celtics are a positive influence because they are something everyone can rally behind. When they win, everyone gets excited. Their participation in the playoffs is a very unifying experience. Fans feel like they are part of it.

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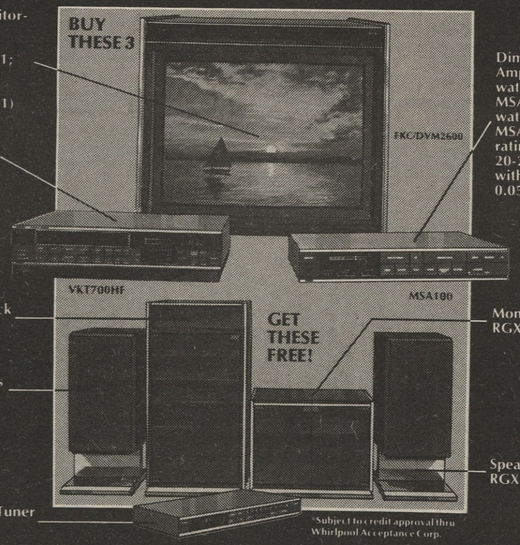

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K.C.s Corner

Continued Testing

As we begin the playoffs, let's review a number of topics which will be useful to consider as the games become more focused and intense.

The Second Season. As soon as we clinched the best record in the entire league, we began plotting our strategy to have the team as prepared as possible for the playoffs. I had hoped to clinch as early as we could--- to give Dennis Johnson, Larry Bird, and Kevin McHale some additional rest. The playoffs require more concentration, mentally as well as physically. Each series is a short season, you're after the same team night after night. Whatever a team's record is, that ballclub must believe they can win. The perfect example is the Cleveland team of last season: they had nothing to lose, they were a team on the rise throughout the last half of the season, and they thought they could beat us. They did not; but that type of mental attitude lifted their playing level.

I do not want to speculate about opponents down the line, although you do keep an eye on the other series throughout the league. But in the later rounds, Atlanta has played us very aggressively this season, particularly down low. Detroit fought us through war last season; Isiah Thomas and Vinnie Johnson pose different problems.

Either Philadelphia or Milwaukee will come after it. The 76ers defeated us last week in the Spectrum; undoubtedly they now remember they have beat us in the past. Moses Malone's status will determine how far they will go. (Ed. Note: Malone suffered a fracture in the eye socket area, March 30). The Bucks would be different; they feature a number of swing men, led by Sidney Moncrief. They would be motivated further because they have won the NBA championship with this version of their franchise. The LAs, Houstons, Denvers, et.al., should we play them later, will be demanding physically, and challenging as teams.

A playoff series, in a way, takes on a life of its own. This is why concentration is vital. We would deal with foe in the finals by establishing our game, our tempo, and our homecourt advantage.

Coach of the Year. I was reminded of the story I whimsically tell writers occasionally; when I played against Jerry West, I held him to fifteen points in a playoff game. Writers surrounded me after the game, and I happily explained how I did it, how doable defense against the great West had been. That day.

Jerry West probably read the report and drew on additional energies and talents, both of which he had in depth. The next game, he smoked forty-three.

I learned long ago that I'd better not pay too much attention to external awards, media opinion, other men's judgements. I have respect for all of those; but they never bothered me either way. There has been more recognition of my role this season---I am appreciative of praise and votes when they come in my direction. But I try to keep my awareness centered on the game out there. As long as we're doing well on the court, I am rewarded. If I'm out there being a salesman, I don't have faith that I am doing my job. My concentration is on the players and on the court, rather than the media. I think a coach should be able to work at the game, and still be gracious.

The Greatest Team Ever. This is something which stirs up excitement and talk but my major concern as a coach is to be scrutinizing---make sure the game is played the right way. We have a talented team and we have most nights played to our potential. I was the assistant on the 1971-72 Lakers' team; they won the title and won 33 straight games. If we win, I suspect I could say we are the better team, because of versatile big men. I played against the 1966-67 Philadelphia team and played on the Celtic dynasty teams. But comparisons are conversation.

Coaching Philosophy. The twists and turns of the season. We struggled somewhat as the regular season drew to a close; we were resting players, others---like Larry Bird---had some difficulties reaching their best motivational states. I think there's a buildup in that area, and we are trying to be powerful throughout April, May, and June.

I believe my coaching credo is giving direction, knowing the personalities of my players, and understanding the strengths and weaknesses of my personnel. What's unique about this team is thay have great pride and play to win, able to place salary aside when they are out there playing basketball. Maybe that partially defines the Celtics style. I am guided by what they do out there; watching the game---its tempo, matchups, intensity---many determine what needs to be done strategically.

Offensively, we like to run because it simply means good shots. Fast-breaking also creates room for our frontline attack. The attack is designed to move body and ball. Any offense should ideally be designed around the players you have.

You build a system this way. You ask: What does a player have to offer? In talent, mind, personality. And you are instantly aided by the Celtics system. It's built from winning, from teamwork. The successful team creates the atmosphere to allow players to play as good as they can.

The 1985-86 Regular Season. A quick review. I think the keys to our season were symbolized by the play of Bill Walton and Jerry Sichting. They were veterans, they were talented, and they fit in. They respected the team and they were received and respected by the players already here. An obvious turning point was the defeat in New York Christmas Day; but we rebounded, came out determined to make things up after that.

But the second season will continue testing us. We can do even better on the defensive end. This is significant as defense counts more in the playoffs. We'll be intent on cutting off penetration. On limiting our opponent's transition game.

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It's Playoff Time!

What you find now is the Celtics have gone through a season of transition. The new players have fit in just like pieces to a puzzle and are shaping up well. Now, they've got to start gearing up their minds to picking up the tempo, especially on defense. Guys jump higher and drive harder to the basket at playoff time. Everybody smells the pot of the playoffs. The team has obviously been playing well lately.

K.C. Jones couldn't ask for a better situation, but he has to worry about the team getting off the blocks in the playoff. The Chicago Bulls haven't burned up the league, but they have guys who can rise to the occasion. George Gervin has been around for a while and he'd like nothing more than to ruin the Celtics' party. And Michael Jordan, who is back from his fractured foot, is fresh and in mid-season form. He's young and creates problems. You've got to gear up and put pressure on him. You don't want to take the Bulls too lightly.

Michael Jordan

George Gervin

Having Jordan back should be a confidence booster to the Bulls. It's like when a Larry Bird or a Dennis Johnson goes out of the lineup for a while then comes back. You may have a new car, but you need those spark plugs to get them going. As young as Jordan is, the Bulls look to him for leadership.

The Bulls' fans react differently to Jordan than they do to the other players. He's electrifying and turns the crowd on. Once he touches the ball, fans expect things to happen.

Everybody says the Lakers this and the Lakers that, but if the Celtics don't beat the Bulls, they won't be able to get to LA.

The Celtics know exactly what they have to do. Chris Ford, Jim Rodgers and K.C. are telling them. This is a veteran club and they don't want to get beaten up in this series and become tired in the other rounds. They want to put his thing against the Bulls away as soon as possible, so they can move on to bigger and better things. The Celtics have been there before-- they know what it's about.

The Celtics have to practice and refine everything they've done during the regular season-- they have to develop playoff mentality. They have to realize it's no longer an 82-game season, but it's a five- or seven game season. Players have to raise their level of concentration, and on the bench, guys' minds can't be wandering.

It's hard to understand what it is that makes guys who don't do well during the regular do well in the playoffs. For example, last year, Cleveland came into the playoffs and played well. On paper, they didn't look stong, but the games aren't played on paper. The player can see the rainbow.

The Celtics players have been developing that playoff mentality-- it doesn't take long to get motivated. K.C.'s motivational speech is very short: "Guys, we gotta get that championship back." The team is very hungry.

I think the Bulls match up well against the Celtics. We're stronger up front, but Orlando Woolridge is the kind of player who can rise to the occasion at playoff time.

The Celtics depth inside has to be a big advantage. But Chicago's strength is that guys like Jordan, Woolridge and Gervin can work you over.

D.J. and Danny Ainge have to work hard defensive against Jordan and Gervin. They can't get into a thing where they think their job is to totally stop Gervin or Jordan-- they need that team support to cover those guys. D.J. knows if an opponent scores 30 points and Boston wins, his job is well done. The players all understand that.

The Celtics have to blow the ball upcourt against the Bulls. They've got to get it out and push it. Boston has more depth than the Bulls, and it should be an advantage. They want it to be a track meet.

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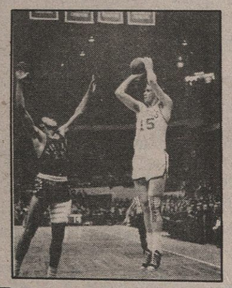

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It's Unanimous: Media Picks Lakers and Celtics

Several members of the media were surveyed by *Celtics Pride*: How do they think the playoffs shape up, and how do they think the regular season champion Celtics will play now that we are into the second season.

Rick Barry, WTBS "Super" Station: "Barring any unforeseen situation, I don't think there's much doubt that we will see another Los Angeles-Boston final. Any other series would be a major upset. And though the Celtics have had the better regular season, I think they have a tougher road ahead of them than the Lakers. In the West, the only legitimate contender is Houston. Denver seems to play LA well, but not well enough to beat them. Houston should present an interesting challenge, but they'll miss John Lucas---both his running and leadership.

"Boston's most serious challenger will be Milwaukee. The Hawks have terriffic personnel and if they are playing their best, they will give the Celtics a hard time. Philadelphia, with Moses Malone injured, is not as serious this year. At this juncture, Boston should be considered the favorite to win the championship, although 1½ months into the season I wouldn't have said that."

Ted Sarandis, Boston Sportscaster: "Obviously the Celtics are the team to beat right now. I'm amazed at their concentration level: there's no letdown, whether they're playing Cleveland, Chicago, Indiana. They forgt the opponent. I've never seen that combination of effort and emotion.

"I think it will come down to an Eastern Conference final against the Bucks, and the Celts should win 6 games. And the Celts should take the Lakers out in the final. LA doesn't have the passion this year."

Gary Binford, Newsday: "I think if Atlanta gets by Detroit in the first round, Celtics-Hawks could be the best series of the playoffs. The matchups are the best: Dominique Wilkens vs. Larry Bird, and Kevin Willis vs. Kevin McHale, for example. And the Hawks have important depth in the middle; with Willis, Rollins, Koncak, and Carr, they have 24 fouls to use up in there and that would give the Celtics low post players trouble. I compare Dominique's potential effect to that of Bernard King, two seasons ago when the Knicks took the Celtics to 7 in the playoffs.

"I picked the Lakers in the beginning of the year, and I'll stay with that choice. In a short series, who knows what will happen? LA's the most serious challenger overall; I think Philadelphia could get by Atlanta, but I doubt they could get by Boston."

Johnny Most, WRKO Radio: "I believe the Celtics should be favored this year but the most important factor to consider is injuries. It shapes up into a Lakers-Celtics final; I would like to see that, with both teams at full strength, going head to head. It's what everybody wants to see, and I think it would be a great final."

Marv Albert, NBC Sports: I think the Celtics are the logical choice, although there is concern that they might be playing their best ball before the playoffs, peaking too soon. They might let down.

"But they should win the whole thing. Their strongest competition in the east---and an obvious surprise this season---is Atlanta. I'm not so sure that Philadelphia, even without being injured, is as strong as the Hawks. The Nets have been through too much to challenge.

"The Lakers are the kings of the west. Houston is their main challenger but Denver, should they get there, would be too tired to take on Los Angeles."

Mike Fine, Quincy Patriot-Ledger: "I expect the Celtics and the Lakers to breeze. There should be no trouble for the Lakers; I'm not even sure the Rockets would get to the finals. They have Sampson and Olajuwon, but little depth.

"In the east, I anticipate Atlanta to make waves, and Milwaukee and Detroit belong in the same tier. The lower levels of the conference are thin---and Philadelphia always is a threat, especially against the Celtics, where there is a traditional rivalry. Atlanta's big people are frightening, and Dominique Wilkens should get some MVP votes.

"Boston should defeat the Lakers in 6 games this year, because of their quality depth. The Lakers have Maurice Lucas, but Mitch Kupchak is injured this year. Boston's support players appear better, too. Jerry Sichting has given the Celtics more than Byron Scott has contributed to the Lakers when you talk about hitting the open shot. Intangibles mean more here; Larry Bird has been in another world the last half of the year and he should be motivated to win this season. And Bill Walton will be sky-high to win another title."

Tony Cotton, The Washington Post: "I doubt there's any way to avoid another Boston-Los Angeles final. The only teams with chances for upsets are Houston in the west, and Milwaukee in the east. Houston should get to the finals in the west this year, but I believe they'll have a more difficult time reaching that round than the Lakers. The Rockets may win until then with their dominating size, but Kareem Abdul-Jabbar carries the Lakers through that team.

"Boston should take their conference; Washington is playing very well now, and they have a chance to upset the 76ers, who are injured. Milwaukee should take the Nets out; the most tricky series to predict is the Atlanta-Detroit 1st round.

"In the finals, glaringly, Boston is the favorite, but when you reach the final round, who knows. I believe people are underestimating the Lakers' pride in defending their title. Defending their championship will make them play harder. But they seem more fragile than the Celtics: what if Magic (Johnson) is injured? Kareem? or (James) Worthy? Boston certainly has been the more consistent team this season."

Celtics are "Streakers"

The 1985-86 season has been one of streaks for the Celtics. En route to the best record in the NBA, Boston has fashioned a 14-game winning streak, as well as another stretch which saw them capture 13 straight triumphs.

But the biggest news as far as streaks go is what the Celtics have done at the Boston Garden. When the Celtics defeated the Detroit Pistons on April 2, 122-106, that gave Boston its 28th straight win on its home turf, setting an NBA record. That bettered and old standard set by the Minneapolis Lakers 36 years ago.

"I'm sure the winning streak was in the back of their minds because they all played hard tonight," Pistons Coach Chuck Daly said. "I would rather have not come here (the Garden) tonight."

It would be easy for the Celtics to get all wrapped up in setting records and being overly concerned about the streak. Coach K.C. Jones is doing the best he can to make sure that doesn't happen. There are more important matters at hand.

"It's something that happens to be here on the way to the playoffs," Jones says. I can't really get into the record. I can get into what we need to win the game."

In fact, the Celtics seem to be almost casual about the winning streak. After all, doesn't every team in the NBA go 28 home appearances without losing?

"I'm more concerned about how we finish the season," Celtics center Robert Parish says. "I want to be on a positive note going into the playoffs. I don't want to slack off."

Forward/center Kevin McHale believes winning streaks are nice, but thats not the name of the game. "I bet when I'm old and gray and I tell my grandchildren we won 31 straight at home, they'll say, 'So what?'," McHale says. "But if I say we won the world championship, they'll say, 'Oh, that's neat.' " It's pretty neat that the Celtics surpassed last season's victory total of 63. For a while, there was some thought Boston might challenge for the best record in NBA history, which is 69-13. That was set by the Los Angeles Lakers in 1971-72.

Kevin McHale: So What?

"It would have been great had that happened," McHale says.

The Celtics have been so great this year that only two teams-- the Atlantic Division Philadelphia 76ers and New Jersey Nets-- have beaten them more than once. Boston is 5-0 against the Central Division champion Milwaukee Bucks and won both its games against the defending NBA Champion Lakers.

"You always hope you can be this good," McHale says. "But to say you're going to win 31 games straight at home and have a 14-game and 13-game winning streak, you can't predict that." While we're on the subject of streaks, it should be pointed out those 71-72 Lakers also won 33 games in a row, a feat that will probably never be duplicated again. Jones is quite familiar with the team, which featured Wilt Chamberlain, Jerry West, as he was an assistant coach.

"It's impossible to compare the two teams," Jones says. All you can do is guess at it."

And just what is your guess, K.C.? "This is a more talented team, a better team."

The K.C. Jones Era: Can It Be The Best?

Two seasons ago The Boston Celtics, behind their 1st year Head Coach K.C. Jones, won the NBA championship, earning the crown finally, the night of June 14th with a 111-102 7th game win over the Los Angeles Lakers. Last year, the Celts were denied; they struggled through a season of triumph, but a shadow of injury and discontent accompanied the team's quest for back-to-back championships. The Celtics almost never are defeated in important games at the Boston Garden; yet last year the Lakers knocked the Celtics out on the latter's home floor, 111-100, to carry the trophy back across the continent, to the City of Angels.

1983-84

The Celtics began their training camp with several questions that season. Could the team bounce back from the disastrous drubbing they took at the hands of the Milwaukee Bucks in the semi-final round of the '82-'83 playoffs (The Bucks swept the Celtics, 4-0, the only 4-game defeat in the team's history)? K.C. Jones was the logical choice to coach the team after Bill Fitch resigned in June of that year, but no one was sure how the team would play for Jones. Finally, there were personnel changes: Gerald Henderson replaced the veteran Tiny Archibald at point guard, Dennis Johnson had been acquired from Phoenix, Robert Parish was asked to play a more active defensive center, and Kevin McHale, after nearly signing with the Knicks, assumed the 6th Man role.

In retrospect, the players provided solid basketball answers, but they were guided artfully by Jones, and , more importantly, by the full emergence of Larry Bird. Jones recalled this early segment of his first year as coach: "After we lost the first game of the season in Detroit, I immediately felt pressure from the media." But the team immediately bounced back the following night in Cleveland, winning 108-99. And Jones went down to the bar and sang several victory songs to celebrate the occasion.

The Celtics continued winning, an early nine-game winning streak sending them into 1st place in November. This stabilized and unified the team; they were able to weather a 4-game losing streak (including a 117-113 2-OT loss in New York, November 22nd). They lost but two games in the standings and began a steady climb, winning 25 of their next 29 contests. McHale was becoming a star, and earned an All-Star berth off the bench. Henderson and Johnson were an aggressive, defense-oriented pair in the backcourt, and Bird spearheaded the drive: graceful, powerful, more determined as the stakes grew higher. With Cedric Maxwell vigilant on the defensive end and Scott Wedman scoring off the bench, Bird was free to dominate the open court, shooting confidently, playing with passion.

The post-season playoffs were an intermingling of victory, setback, test, and ultimately final triumph. Boston defeated the Bullets, 3-1 behind Parish, and despite Bird's sprained ankle in the clincher in Landover. Against the Knicks, the teams waged a superstar shootout, DJ and Bird finally outlasting a gutsy New York team with its lightning-quick, Bernard King. In the Eastern Conference Final, the Celts won the first three games to handle the Bucks, 4-1, to set the stage for shootout 1 with LA.

The series was even throughout; the Celts regained their team confidence (after a blazing LA 1st game win) when Gerald Henderson stole a James Worthy pass to make the Celtics win in overtime possible. Images complete the tale: Magic Johnson mocking the Celts in Game 3; DJ switching on to Magic in Game 4; fights among McHale-Rambis, Bird -Abdul-Jabbar, and Maxwell-Worthy; Bird's memorable 5th in 97-degree heat; and Maxwell and Parish providing the clincher in Game 7. Bird won MVP of the playoff and regular season.

1984-85

For the second time this decade, the Celtics attempted to win back-to-back titles. Again they failed, despite a courageous, emotional try. The season was different; change, missed time, and defeat hung over the team nucleus, like a lingering illness. The season began this way; after a protracted holdout, Gerald Henderson was bartered to Seattle for the Sonics' 1st-round draft choice in 1986. This exchange was a signal because instability accompanied the Eastern Conference champions the entire season.

And it was ironic, because Bird was playing with the added confidence his MVP awards had designated, and the team roared out of the gate, 15-1 on December 2nd. Bird scored 48, but the team needed McHale's last second tip-in to nudge the Hawks. Bird again scored 48, yet Boston triumphed only because the MVP won the game at the buzzer with a fadeaway floater from from the corner. Again the regular season was won---but it was lost, this year, too---on the West Coast. Boston won in Seattle, Oakland, and Utah, but lost: Cedric Maxwell, Robert Parish, Quinn Buckner, and M.L. Carr suffered injuries and returned to Boston early. Back home, Boston rode searing individual games (McHale's 56 and 42 point games; Bird's 60 in New Orleans) and went on to the Eastern Conference championship.

Through the final stages of the year, gloom and resignation descended and there was little confidence among team members, even before the playoffs began. Bird was injured as the team won the Cleveland and Detroit series. And though Robert Parish played some of his best Celtics games as the Celts defeated the Sixers surprisingly easily, he was injured and exhausted. In the end, the Celtics were targets of a hunt, by the stalking Lakers, in Shootout II. Dennis Johnson seemed to save the series by scoring a game-winning buzzer jumper in Game 4, but it was the last Celtic victory of the season.

1985-86

The season asks the question: are the Celtics the best team ever? Such answers are determined on the floor. Certainly the Celtics seemed to be light-years away from such queries, when they were defeated Opening Night by the Nets after leading by 18, and especially on Christmas, when the Knicks recovered from a 30-point deficit to defeat the Celtics, 113-104 in double-overtime, it was a culmination of a period. Bill Walton, Jerry Sichting, Rick Carlisle, Wedman, and David Thirdkill were providing depth and excellence. And McHale was now an All-Star.

The season turned in three ways. Again they swept through a brief west coast December trip. Later, in two games against the Lakers, Walton and Parish were a shot-blocking/rebounding twin tower, keying wins. After the second Laker win, the team survived a McHale injury, going 15-3.

Are the 1985-86 Celtics the best ever? First, of course, to even entertain the question, they must win the title. And two differing directions of thought should be considered. Bill Russell: "They must win several years to merit such talk." K.C. Jones: "With the size, talent, and versatility, this team is very competitive with the best." With McHale, Parish, Walton, and Johnson, a nucleus of superstar quality exists. Bird, one of the best ever, probes them. The bench is ideal (personality and skill). Jones is a blend of patience and basketball smarts, supported by the scouting and talent assessment skill of Jimmy Rodgers, Chris Ford, and Red Auerbach.

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Celtics are in the Lottery!

By David Zuccaro

The professional sports draft. It is a system designated with the intention to reward the feeble. And while some franchises prospered because of it, others faultered. The National Basketball Association, sports true pioneers of revolutionary though, initiated an new method to determine where collegiate standouts were to commence their professional career. Originating in 1985, the league gave birth to its latest offspring: "The Draft Lottery."

A lottery, described to us by Webster's is "an event or affair whose outcome is or seems to be determined by chance." In this definition, chance is the appropriate character - just ask the Golden State Warriors. If your memory fails, let's review to last season when the Warriors, owner's of the league's worst record, would have taken part in what was called the "coin flip," a process whereby the team with the lowest winning percentage in each of the two conferences would lock horns for the right to have the number one pick by the calling of "heads" or "tails". But this was 1985, and the league opted for a more inventive method of selection. The Warriors' logo, along with the other six non-playoff participants, were placed in identical envelopes (verified by the international accounting firm of Ernst & Whinney) to be drawn by Commissioner David Stern, as each club's representative anxiously awaited.

The event, broadcast live during halftime of a playoff contest on CBS-TV, continued as the commissioner placed - one-by-one - the unopened envelopes on a huge board indicating the position of each team for the draft. Then, in reverse order, Stern quickly pronounced the future of the seven by revealing their logo from its enclousure. Golden State, as *chance* would have it, finished at the bottom of the barrel (7th place) under the new system, while the year before they would have finished no worse than second. First prize in the raffle was Patrick Ewing, with the New York Knicks the eventual winners of the controversial contest.

But a quicky twist of fate has five of last year's sorry seven in an encore performance in the latest edition; however, although two of those teams bought a ticket to the lottery, they will have to forfeit their winnings (or losings) to more prominent members.

In 1979, the then San Diego Clippers swapped a first round draft choice to the Philadelphia 76ers for the immortal Joe "Jellybean" Bryant. In 1984, the Sonics received Gerald Henderson from the World Champion Boston Celtics for a number one pick. Therefore, the Celtics and Sixers will richen, while the Sonics and Clippers will repent.

An asterik is necessary to understand the second annual lottery. There will be eight teams in the pool because of the infinite ineptness of former Cavalier's owner Ted Stepien. The Cavs logo will not be in the barrel, but they will select somewhere between third and eighth in the draft. Once upon a time, Ted traded a number one choice to Dallas; so, the Mavericks will participate in the pool as one of three playoff-bound teams that will do so. The Cavaliers have the right to purchase the pick immediately following the one where Dallas chooses, as long as it doesn't exceed the third selection.

The lottery was invented to give teams more incentive to win. The 1986 raffle will bear the logos of three playoff teams (Boston, Dallas and Philadelphia) in addition to the Warriors, Knicks, Pacers and Suns. In the final weeks of the treacherous season, it was felt teams that had no chance to play in any post-season games would have no reason to attempt to win. By losing, those clubs might be able to secure the lowest percentage, participate in the coin flip and secure a number one selection. The lottery, to those in command, would eliminate the negative and accentuate the positive. However, there is some disagreement with the philosophy to those who concur that the lottery has been its own worst enemy.

Boston, like six other hopefuls, could conceivably wind up with the top selection. This would mark the first time that the Green headed this list since the 1980 edition when they traded that pick to Golden State for the Warriors first choice (third selection overall) and Robert Parish. Only one other time in the past eight years have the Celtics had a pick in the top seven and with that choice they took someone named Larry Bird in 1978. Outside the top seven, and the Celts have chosen the likes of Charles Bradley, Darren Tillis and Michael Young in the first round.

In 1986, Boston could choose as low a number as 8 in the draft process. The last time Boston had that choice, Portland State's Freeman Williams was selected.

So, Celtics' fans, will Boston choose first? If so, who will they select? Remember last season, the Knicks wound up with Ewing. Will Boston be in the middle-of-the-pack? In 1985, Seattle, choosing fourth, selected a player who some feel was the NBA's best freshman - Xavier McDaniel. Will Boston choose in the 7th or 8th position? Golden State, even with its streak of bad luck, still peaked with the selection of Chris Mullin. Or will Boston trade its choice? For answers to these and other questions, stay tuned to your local CBS affiliate at the halftime of the May 11th game.

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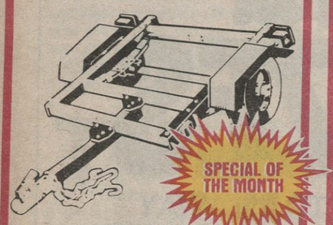

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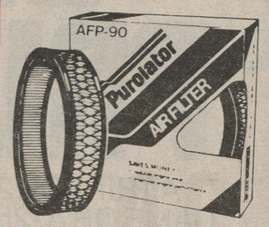

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Celtics Confidential

by Bob Schron

Walton on History. **Bill Walton** noted recently that the Boston Garden and its nightly sellout crowds played an important role as this year's Celtics roared to the regular season title, clinched on April 4th. "You have so many fans who know what they're watching; they appreciate good play, as well as expressing dissatisfaction of bad play. But that doesn't surprise me. These are fans who were brought up on **Bill Russell, John Havlicek, K.C. Jones, Sam Jones, Paul Silas, Jo Jo White, Larry Bird, Dennis Johnson,** and **Kevin McHale.**

"If you see these players regularly, you have an appreciation of what the game is all about. The game is not stats; it's the little things a teammate does for another teammate to win games.

"And no one does the little things better than Larry Bird," stated Walton, Bird's most ardent supporter. Ironic, because Walton is one of the players (**Dave Cowens** was another) Bird modeled his game after.

Vinnie Johnson, noted Celtics destroyer in last season's Celtics-Detroit playoff series, heaped praise on the Celtics in three areas: (1) Larry Bird. "He can do it all, and at 6-9. (2) Dennis Johnson. "He's the best defensive guard in the league. When he's playing you, everything is difficult. He can block your shot, he will strip the ball from you. He concentrates on not letting you get off. (3) The Big Men. "The Celtics have so many people to go to. They (**Robert Parish,** Walton, McHale, Bird) all can post up, and they all run the floor so well."

Bill Walton: Russell was favorite.

Buck Williams, Nets All-Star Forward, thinks part of what makes the Celtics so effective is "K.C. Jones gives Bird free reign of the court. He (Bird) has such high court awareness that he's able to be creative every time down the floor. He'll run plays like the pick and roll, like 2nd nature. You can just play basketball and not worry about calling plays."

Johnny Dawkins, Duke's swift and springy 6-1 guard, broke **Danny Ainge's**NCAA record 126 straight games of scoring in double figures last month...Ainge called friend **Bruce Hurst** of the Boston Red Sox to wish him well when the Sox' hurler took the mound in Detriot for his Opening Day assignment. But the Sox were defeated, 6-5.

Hubie Brown, Coach of the Knicks, is a strong advocate of **Kenny Walker** (F at University of Kentucky). "Go back to high school and on through college. Every team he's been on has been a winner." Brown, agonizing through a second consecutive losing season, says two things are required from a pro coach. "The first demand is do you get results? With my team the past two seasons and with the injuries we've had, I'm hoping that is not the only criterion I'm judged on. The line below 'results' is, did my team play up to its potential?" Brown on the stinging criticism he faces nearly daily in the New York papers: "What allows me peace in that matter is I am well paid."

Last Friday, Boston University and Clark University men's teams and Bryant and Springfield College's women's teams squared off in the Schick Super Hoops 3-on-3 New England Regional Finals. This was part of a nationwide tournament involving more than 30,000 teams from 700 college intramural programs...Senator **Edward Kennedy** was a guest of the team April 4th.

WRKO Radio held its annual Celtics luncheon at the Garden, March 25. **Bank of Boston** sponsored a similar function at Hellenic College, April 5.

As the Celtics aproached the 1971-72 (33-game winning streak) Los Angeles Lakers' all-time season record of wins (The Celtics fell short this year), K.C. Jones, an assistant coach on that team was asked about his former player on that team, **Wilt Chamberlain,** "I had always opposed Wilt, as a member of the Celtics and had thought the constant criticism of him was true. But that season, Wilt was a power. Wilt pulled that '71-72 team together. He was a force; he totally impressed me that year---as a player and as a man." Chamberlain was a force that season, and a studious one. He and K.C. exchanged tips on how to defense the then-young Milwaukee Bucks' unstoppable superstar, **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.** "Wilt was always asking questions, asking for films on Kareem," recalls. K.C.

Bill Walton has similar praise for Chamberlain's earlier foe, the Celts' **Bill Russell** (their interview appeared in the March 10 issue of **CP**): "Russell was my favorite player and one of my favorite people; the way he conducted his life, the way he stood up for himself. I patterned myself after him."...Bird registered his 10th triple double of the season against the 76ers, April 6th, the 37th of his illustrious career.

Playoff Update. According to **Tony Cotton,** beat writer for the Washington Post and covering the **Washington Bullets,** that team is playing their best ball of the year right now. "Because of injuries, Gene Shue wanted to play a half-court game. The players, although they didn't say too much, felt differently. When Kevin Loughery came in, he said 'Run.' It's helped Gus Williams' game---and Jeff Malone, Dan Roundfield, and Cliff Robinson have picked right up."...The **Bulls,** weathering the months of despair without Michael Jordan, seem to be rallying to make the playoffs anyway. Jordan's discontent with the way his injury was handled has been well documented. "**Gene Banks** has been a terrific influence in the locker room," says Bulls' assistant coach Mike Thibault. "He's helped to keep the younger players in line, their minds on the game."...The Bulls have attempted to persuade Orlando Woolridge to be a complete player, and "for Orlando, that means going to the boards," adds Thibault. To reinforce the message, the Bulls' Coach Stan Albeck began pulling the moody Orlando out of games when the ball was on the boards and he didn't pursue it...As the Pacers faded from playoff contention, their early season acquisition, **Clint Richardson** became a puzzled player. He thought he was filling a role of guide, helping to bring younger players like **Waymon Tisdale, Terrance Stansbury,** and **Vern Fleming** along slowly. But his playing time was erratic toward season's end; once satisfied with his new situation in Indianapolis, he was unhappy late.

Johnny Most, the voice of the Celtics, was featured on WBZ-TV's Evening Magazine show...**Sportschannel,** the local cable outlet which televises Celtics home regular and playoff season games, ran an eight part series, "Celtic Dynasty", chronicling the fifteen championship seasons of the team.

Another New Family Member

The Celtics family, growing by leaps and bounds in 1986, welcomed another new member on Saturday, April 5th. The newest addition is Amanda Rachel Ordway, daughter of Christine and Glenn Ordway. Glenn, of course, is Johnny Most's partner on the Celtics' radio broadcasts on WRKO-Radio, as well as a *Celtics Pride* columnist.

Amanda Rachel weighed in at birth at an impressive 10 pounds and 7½ ounces. She is assumed to be the largest girl in Celtics family history.

Miller Sponsors Sports Bag Giveaway

Fans entering the Boston Garden for the Celtics game against the New York Knicks on Friday, April 4th were presented with a sports bag, courtesy of Miller Lite Beer and WLVI-TV-56, the television home of the Boston Celtics. The bags, distributed in two different sizes, are perfect for sports gear, a trip to the beach, or kids' use.

GAME BY GAME - REVIEW

April 4, at Boston
Celtics 119, New York 98

Celtics starters got a much-needed rest on this night, as just one member of the first five played more than 27 minutes. But that didn't stop the C's from pounding the injury-riddled Knicks, who were playing without Cambridge's Patrick Ewing, among many others.

"It's good to have a lot of rest," guard Dennis Johnson said. "It wasn't really as easy as it seemed. We executed very well in the first half."

Those first 24 minutes saw Boston race out to a 68-44 advantage. The Celtics outscored New York, 20-5, in the last 7:08 of the first half.

McHale led the Celtics with 25 points and Danny Ainge scored 17. Larry Bird accounted for 16 points and eight assists. Ken Bannister had 26 for the Knicks.

The win was the 14th straight for the Celtics and 28th of the season at home. They have just one loss at the Garden all year.

April 6, at Philadelphia
Philadelphia 95, Celtics 94

This contest between the two bitter rivals of the Atlantic Division wasn't no party, it wasn't no disco and it wasn't no fooling around.

It was a street fight---literally. Danny Ainge and Sixer guard Sedale Threatt were involved in a slight tussle, which got Threatt kicked out of the game after he punched Ainge.

Julius Erving was the one who provided the knockout punch for the Sixers. The Doctor dropped in a desperation three-point shot at the buzzer to give the 76ers a victory and end Boston's 14-game winning streak. The Celtics were up by 11 at one point.

"If we can continue playing the way we've been playing, we'll beat anybody," Sixer Coach Matt Guokas said. "It's building our confidence to play this way. This is probably our most satisfying win of the year.

Even moreso, since the Sixers were playing without Moses Malone and ex-Celtic Bob McAdoo.

Dennis Johnson topped Boston with 22 points and Larry Bird, who missed two critical free throws with seconds remaining, had 18 points. Maurice Cheeks had 20 for Philadelphia.

April 8, at Milwaukee
Celtics 126, Milwaukee 114

The Don Nelson-led Milwaukee Bucks may be one of the NBA's elite teams but they don't have anything on the Celtics.

This victory enabled the Celtics to finish off a five-game sweep of Milwaukee during the regular season... Larry Bird led the way with 26 points and Bill Walton added 22 in a starting assignment.

After David Thirdkill sank a pair of free throws with 8:09 left on the clock, giving Boston a 103-96 lead, the Bucks scored five straight points. A jumper by Sidney Moncrief made the count 103-11. But an 8-2 Celtics spurt enabled them to regain the momentum.

Terry Cummings' 22 points was high for the Bucks, who lead the Central Division.

April 9, at New Jersey
New Jersey 108, Celtics 98

Everything went right for New Jersey Nets center Mike Gminski. The graduate of Masuk High School in Monroe, Conn. had 41 points and 22 rebounds, both career highs, enabling the Nets to become just the second NBA team to beat the Celtics twice this season.

"As an athlete, you go out there sometimes and you feel you can't do anything wrong," Gminski said. "Things were flowing tonight. It's such a great feeling to have a game like this against a team like them."

Nets Coach Dave Wohl had ripped his players for not playing well a couple of days earlier, which inspired the Duke graduate.

"When players read things in the newspapers, it stings a little," Gminski said. "I think that's good, Sometimes players have to get a little angry."

Otis Birdsong helped out Gminski with 22 points. Kevin McHale had 19 points for Boston.

April 11, at Boston
Celtics 117, Cleveland 104

The Celtics broke open a close game in the first half with a 10-0 spurt, extending a 50-46 lead to a 14-point advantage, during the run, which started at 3:47 left in the first half. Dennis Johnson and Kevin McHale scored four points each during that span. Johnson started things off with a jumper at the top of the key.

McHale followed with a layup and a pair of free throws, Robert Parish canned a turn-around and Johnson hit a long jumper to wrap up the surge.

McHale led the scoring for Boston with 30 points, as the Celtics won for the 16th time in 18 games. It was also their 30th home victory in a row.

April 13, at Boston
Celtics 135, New Jersey 107

The Celtics knocked off the Nets to end the regular season with a stunning 67-15 record, wound up with a 40-1 home record, the best in league history and made it 31 straight home wins in a row, another league standard. But who cares?

"This team and this town don't consider it a good season unless we win everything," Robert Parish said.

Said Bill Walton: "Right now, I just think about the games we lost that we should have won."

This outing wasn't one of them. A 46-point third quarter by the Celtics shredded their Atlantic Division rival. Larry Bird led the Celtics with 26 points and Keven McHale chipped in 24. Otis Birdsong had 19 for the Nets and Mike Gminski added 18.

Celtics 119, Knicks 98
NEW YORK
McNeely 1-4 1-2 3, Orr 1-8 0-0 2, Bannister 11-16 4-11 26, Walker 3-10 4-7 10, Tucker 8-13 0-0 16, Grunfeld 2-7 4-4 8, Thornton 2-6 1-8 5, Wilkins 5-11 1-3 12, Cofield 5-12 2-2 12, Green 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 40-91 17-39 98.
BOSTON
McHale 8-11 9-9 25, Bird 5-14 6-6 16, Parish 5-9 2-4 12, Johnson 6-8 3-3 15, Ainge 6-11 2-2 17, Walton 0-0 2-2 2, Sichting 3-5 0-0 6, Wedman 4-11 1-1 10, Kite 2-4 0-0 4, Carlisle 0-0 0-0 0, Vincent 4-7 2-2 10, Thirdkill 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 44-84 27-29 119.

New York	27	17	34	30— 98
Boston	28	30	28	23—119

Three-point goals—Ainge 3, Wedman, Wilkins. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—New York 56 (Bannister 11), Boston 59 (McHale 11). Assists—New York 21 (Grunfeld 5), Boston 25 (Bird 8). Total fouls—New York 24, Boston 25. A—14,890.

76ers 95, Celtics 94
BOSTON
McHale 3-10 4-4 10, Bird 8-17 0-2 18, Parish 6-11 1-1 13, D.Johnson 10-20 2-2 22, Ainge 3-5 5-5 12, Walton 0-2 1-1 1, Sichting 4-6 0-0 8, Wedman 2-5 0-0 4, Kite 0-1 0-0 0, Carlisle 3-4 0-0 6. Totals 39-81 13-15 94.
PHILADELPHIA
Barkley 5-16 4-6 14, Stokes 2-5 0-0 4, Catledge 5-16 3-5 13, Erving 8-14 5-7 23, Cheeks 8-16 4-5 20, Threatt 4-7 0-0 8, Jones 0-3 0-0 0, C.Johnson 5-9 0-0 10, Moss 1-5 1-2 3. Totals 38-91 17-25 95.

Boston	28	22	28	16—94
Philadelphia	26	21	21	27—95

Three-point goals—Bird 2, Erving 2, Ainge. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Boston 47 (Parish 11), Philadelphia 48 (Barkley 14). Assists—Boston 28 (Bird 10), Philadelphia 22 (Cheeks 8). Total fouls—Boston 19, Philadelphia 15. Technicals—Threatt (ejected), C.Johnson, Bird. A—17,941.

Celtics 126, Bucks 114
BOSTON
Kite 0-3 0-0 0, Wedman 2-4 0-0 4, Walton 8-11 6-6 22, Carlisle 4-9 0-0 8, Sichting 7-11 1-3 15, Bird 10-13 6-6 26, Thirdkill 2-4 4-5 8, McHale 9-15 1-3 19, Ainge 2-5 0-0 4, Vincent 3-7 2-2 8, Parish 5-6 2-2 12. Totals 52-88 22-27 126.
MILWAUKEE
Cummings 8-20 6-6 22, Pressey 1-9 6-8 8, Breuer 2-5 0-0 4, Hodges 2-8 2-2 7, Pierce 5-11 3-3 13, Moncrief 3-8 12-12 18, Reynolds 2-4 0-0 4, Fields 2-3 3-4 7, Mokeski 0-1 1-2 1, Glenn 5-7 4-4 14, Davis 2-5 0-0 4, Lister 6-12 0-2 12. Totals 38-83 37-43 114.

Boston	33	30	30	33—126
Milwaukee	29	30	28	29—114

Three-point goal—Hodges. Fouled out—Lister. Rebounds—Boston 52 (Bird 14), Milwaukee 50 (Cummings 9). Assists—Boston 29 (Bird 7), Milwaukee 22 (Moncrief 5). Total fouls—Boston 23, Milwaukee 26. Technicals—Kite (ejected), Pressey, Boston illegal defense 2. A—11,052.

Nets 108, Celtics 98
BOSTON
McHale 6-11 6-9 18, Bird 6-15 3-4 16, Parish 5-12 0-2 10, D.Johnson 4-10 2-4 10, Ainge 3-7 3-3 9, Walton 5-5 5-6 15, Sichting 5-8 0-0 10, Kite 0-0 0-0 0, Carlisle 3-5 0-0 6, Thirdkill 0-2 0-0 0, Vincent 1-2 2-2 4. Totals 38-77 21-30 98.
NEW JERSEY
Williams 6-15 1-3 13, King 2-12 0-0 4, Gminski 15-23 11-12 41, Birdsong 10-21 2-5 22, Ransey 3-6 2-2 8, Turner 0-2 2-2 2, M.Johnson 1-8 4-4 6, Cook 3-7 4-4 10, O'Koren 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 41-85 26-32 108.

Boston	34	21	28	15— 98
New Jersey	26	20	31	31—108

Three-point goal—Bird. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Boston 39 (Bird 10), New Jersey 57 (Gminski 22). Assists—Boston 26 (McHale 8), New Jersey 20 (Cook, Ransey 5). Total fouls—Boston 25, New Jersey 22. Technicals—New Jersey illegal defense 4. A—18,092.

Celtics 117, Cavaliers 104
CLEVELAND
Lee 4-6 3-4 11, Hinson 8-16 6-8 22, Turpin 6-14 2-2 14, E.Johnson 4-12 0-0 9, Free 11-17 5-6 28, Minniefield 1-10-0 2, McDonald 3-7 0-1 6, West 3-5 0-0 6, Brewer 0-4 0-0 0, Poquette 2-4 2-2 6. Totals 42-86 18-23 104.
BOSTON
McHale 12-14 6-6 30, Bird 4-13 2-2 11, Parish 4-10 5-8 13, D.Johnson 8-12 0-1 16, Ainge 3-7 2-2 8, Sichting 5-7 2-2 12, Walton 4-6 1-2 9, Carlisle 1-2 1-2 3, Kite 0-2 2-4 2, Thirdkill 1-2 7-9 9, Vincent 2-5 0-0 4. Totals 44-80 26-36 117.

Cleveland	28	23	24	29—104
Boston	34	32	26	25—117

Three-point goals—Bird, E.Johnson, Free. Fouled out—Lee. Rebounds—Cleveland 43 (Hinson 7), Boston 50 (Parish 9). Assists—Cleveland 24 (Free 7), Boston 26 (Bird 8). Total fouls—Cleveland 29, Boston 19. A—14,890.

Celtics 135, Nets 107
NEW JERSEY
O'Koren 4-12 0-0 8, B.Williams 5-6 2-6 12, Gminski 7-18 4-4 18, Birdsong 8-14 2-5 19, Ransey 3-10 0-0 7, King 5-13 2-2 12, Turner 3-7 1-2 7, Cook 0-6 1-2 1, M.Johnson 4-13 1-1 10, R.Williams 3-6 3-4 9, Cattage 1-3 2-2 4. Totals 43-108 18-28 107.
BOSTON
McHale 11-13 2-3 24, Bird 9-14 7-7 26, Parish 3-10 5-7 11, D.Johnson 4-6 4-4 12, Ainge 1-4 11-12 13, Walton 1-4 2-2 4, Sichting 3-4 4-4 10, Kite 1-2 2-4 4, Carlisle 4-6 2-2 10, Wedman 3-8 2-2 9, Vincent 1-1 2-2 4, Thirdkill 3-3 2-2 8. Totals 44-75 45-51 135.

New Jersey	22	29	27	29—107
Boston	23	28	46	38—135

Three-point goals—Birdsong, Ransey, M.Johnson, Bird, Wedman. Fouled out—B.Williams. Rebounds—New Jersey 56 (B.Williams 10), Boston 56 (Parish 13). Assists—New Jersey 22 (Ransey 5), Boston 26 (D.Johnson, Ainge 4). Total fouls— New Jersey 34, Boston 21. Technicals—Gminski. A—14,890.

Eddie Gillooly

It's a Different Parish

Some of the ever-ready critics who like to sieze upon such things, claim Robert Parish has had a sensational season because he's in the last year of his contract.

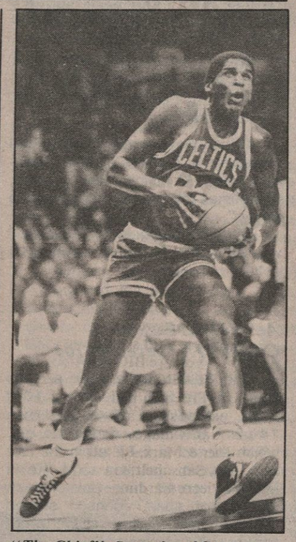
Wrong.

Others reason the Chief has given the Celtics an All-Star performance throughout the year because he's getting a lot of rest on the pine due to the acquisition of Bill Walton and that he's fresh and ready each contest.

Partially right.

The key reason Robert Parish has been outstanding in the 1985-86 season is the fact he doesn't have to play each game worrying about his foul situation. He's been able to go all-out whether he's burdened with two fouls of four fouls because Walton is in the shadows getting psyched for action.

Parish is playing this season with an aggressiveness that very few ever thought he possessed. He's rebounded with fervor. Set ferocious picks to free his teammates for easy jumpers and he's run the fast break like a high school sprinter, finishing off the dash with a thundering dunk.



"The Chief": Sensational Season.

This is an all new Robert Parish. He seems to have emerged from Clark Kent's tiny telephone booth to become the aggressor, the intimidator, the strong man in the pivot. He's displayed this style on many occasions in the past but he's never done it for an entire season.

There haven't been many games at Boston Garden this season when Robert hasn't aroused the fans into chanting "Chief, Chief, Chief." They enjoy the way he dunks and battles his opponents for position in the low post, both on offense and defense.

It was very noticeable early in the year that Robert had adopted a new style of play which prompted more than one reporter to ask him why he seemed more aggressive on the court. Without hesitation, Robert replied, "with Bill (Walton) on the bench ready to relieve me, I don't have to worry about getting in foul trouble."

Concentration is a vital element in sports, particularly in the non-contact game of basketball where there is considerable contact at the pro level. There's no way a player can avoid body contact considering the close quarters of a basketball court.

Contact is the name of the game for the center who operates in the low post, clogs the middle and blocks shots. Some, like the Chief get the referee's evil eye while others like Moses Malone get away with mayhem. When was the last time Moses ever fouled out of a game?

Relieved of this burden of worrying about the ref's whistle because of Walton's availability and durability, Parish decided it was his time to play carefree and aggressive and damn the officials' whistles.

It was a theory I had never considered in the past. Parish's on-the-court poker face is deceiving. You can never recognize when he's riled. He maintains the same temperatment whether he's being pushed around or doing the pushing.

As a result, I thought he was a pussycat, a very talented finesse player but one who didn't like banging bodies with Moses Malone, Jeff Ruland or Bob Lanier, when that bulky one was with the Bucks.

The Chief's style seemed to change against the beef. And it was always in the key games because the beef was in the East. But obviously I was wrong. I didn't take into consideration Robert had to change his game to stay in the contest. Head to head with the behemoths, he'd be sitting on the bench watching the game.

After each season in recent years, I would engage in my annual debate with KC Jones, arguing that he should trade Parish even up for Ruland or some other beefy and bulky center who would wage war in the pivot.

Mr. Calm would sit and listen to all the arguments which he heard over and over, year after year, and then retaliate with all the pluses Parish provided the Celtics--speed, shot blocking and outside shooting.

A total Parish booster from the start, KC never doubted Parish's value to the Celtics even after the occasions he would come out on the short end of the battles with Malone, Ruland or Lanier.

"Parish does what we want him to do," Jones would respond. "He's our man, I wouldn't trade him for any other center in the league. He gives us the mobility the team needs. He can be physical when it's necessary to be physical."

I always agreed with Jones concerning the Chief's attributes but I still felt he lacked aggressiveness in contests against the physical centers in the NBA but that has changed drastically this season.

KC admitted he took some of the aggressiveness away from Parish in the games against the physical centers by calling plays that positioned the Chief in the high post in an effort to pull his man from underneath the basket.

The strategy employed by Jones was to unclog he middle by keeping Parish away from the hoop so that the other players could operate inside without being mauled by the beefy ones.

Whatever, the past is the past: Robert has played this year aggressively in a carefree style and enjoying it more. And, if you haven't noticed, he's seldom in foul trouble. Heads are ducking now when Robert's dunking.

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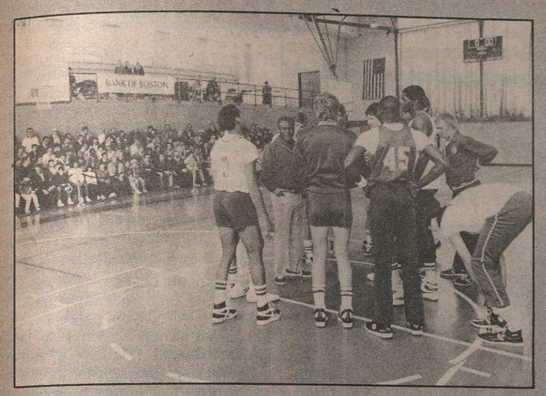

Bank of Boston Holds Annual Party at Celtics' Practice

The Bank of Boston, one of the Celtics oldest and most highly regarded local sponsors, held their annual party at the Celtics' April 5th practice at Hellenic College in Brookline, Mass.

More than 200 guests of the Bank joined the Celtics for the practice, which was hosted by Celtics head coach K.C. Jones. The practice featured an unusual and entertaining scrimmage between the "big guys" and the "little guys" on the team.

After the conclusion of the practice, the Celtics players and staff joined the guests of the Bank for food and drink. It was a fine affair for the Bank, giving them an opportunity to thank their clients and customers.

Greatest Games from Page 9

for the remainer of the third period and trailed by just 3 points at the break. Over the final 10 minutes of the game, neither team was able to pull ahead by more than 3 points, and the game was tied at 93 when Robert Parish hit a 16-foot jumper. With 52 seconds left, Andrew Toney hit a 21-footer to pull the Sixers within one point; he followed that shot with a steal shortly thereafter. But as he drove to the hoop in an effort to put his team back in front, Celtics' rookie Kevin McHale made the key play of the game, saving the game and the series by blocking Toney's attemped shot and rebounding the ball. After the game was over, the team boarded a latenight charter flight back to Boston, where thousands of exuberant fans met them, thanking their team for one of the most memorable and improbable wins ever.

June 6, 1984: The Celtics entered this game down 2-1 in the Championship series and in hostile territory in the L.A. Forum; they were just a Gerald Henderson steal and a subsequent overtime victory in Game 2 from a 3-0 deficit in the series. Things were looking even worse when the Lakers took a 10-point (68-58) half-time lead. But an increase in the Green's defensive pace and overall intensity had been established late in the second period when Kevin McHale knocked Laker forward Kurt Rambis to the court while preventing a lay-up; the ensuing near-brawl set the tone for the remainder of the series, as play shifted from the Lakers' fast-break style to the Celtics' physical defensive style. When Magic Johnson missed two free throws in the last minute of regulation and Larry Bird hit two with 16 seconds left, the Celtics comeback from five points down with less than a minute to play was completed. The overtime was, for the second time in the series, Boston's, as a Bird basket, two clutch free throws by Dennis Johnson and a key steal by M.L. Carr sealed the win for the Celtics and knotted the series. As usual, the Celtics were led by Larry Bird's 29 points and playoff-high 21 rebounds, but the efforts of Robert Parish (25 points) and Dennis Johnson (22 points, 14 assists) were also vital. The Celtics went on to defeat the Lakers twice (in Games 5 and 7) in the sweltering heat of the Boston Garden to grasp their 15th NBA title.

366 games. 220 wins. 15 NBA Championships. With so many glorious moments to be able to consider, any list of the greatest must necessarily be subjective and limited. You probably have your favorites. As the 1986 playoffs get underway, we can only wonder what great moments these next two months of pressure-filled NBA playoff action will bring, as the 1985-86 Celtics strive to notch yet another title --- sweet 16.

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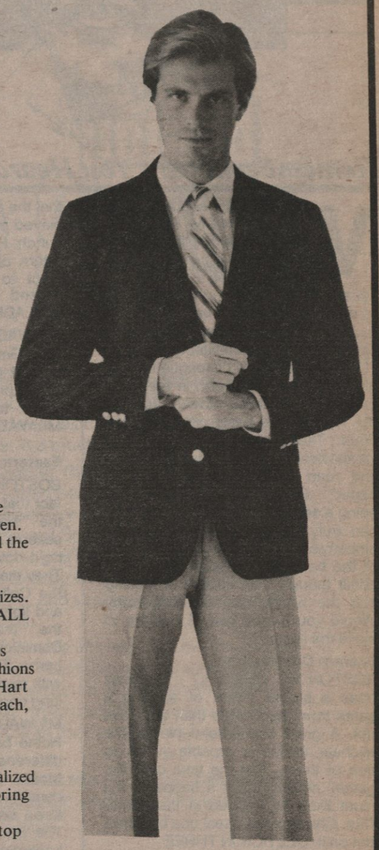

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What I am about to do is completely safe. You too can do it at home. There is no risk of danger even to children..... I'm picking Boston and Los Angeles to meet in the NBA finals. Let's face it, there are only two factors that could prevent this inevitable rematch; (1) a major injury (2) a league charter giving Cleveland a berth in the finals for a $250,000 fee. Now, predicting the road to the finals can be hazardous. Teams fighting the pains of inexperience, psychological blocks and road blahs can make an "on paper" analysis go haywire. But being a seasoned veteran of this art, I can truly say that I am immune to embarrasment and humiliation. One of the benefits of seasoning. I must admit though, this aspect of looking into the future can be dangerous. Would you please ask all children to leave the room.

Eastern Conference

BOSTON VS. CHICAGO - The Bulls pose a bigger threat of stealing a game from the Celtics than the Cavs did. A great one-on-one player like Michael Jordan is capable of having one of those "Let me take over the game" nights. But if it happens, it's most likely to happen in the Windy City. Chicago may steal one but don't bet on it. CELTICS IN THREE

ATLANTA VS. DETROIT - The Pistons still sorely lack a big post up scorer, This is the single most important missing element that has prevented them from challenging the big boys for real. Bill Laimbeer is content to plant himself 18 feet from the basket...take face up jumpers and avoid defense at all costs. He's more interested in amassing rebounds. Well thats great if the other team is not shooting well but Atlanta's frontline will end up taking more slam dunks than you can imagine. Isiah will keep Detroit in the series. ATLANTA IN FIVE

PHILADELPHIA VS. WASHINGTON - Will the real Sixers please stand up. Is this the Moses, Toney 76ers or the Stokes, Catledge 76ers? The most ironic twist to this question is the fact that the Stokes, Catledge 76ers have played much better than the veteran bunch. How will the team react to the return of Moses and Toney if they elect to return? Washington could extend this series to five If..... PHILADELPHIA IN FOUR

MILWAUKEE VS. NEW JERSEY - Mike Gminski having been elevated to a starting role is playing the best ball of his pro career. Still Nets pose no threat to defensive minded Bucks. MILWAUKEE IN THREE

Eastern Conference Semi-Finals

BOSTON VS. ATLANTA - Despite the fact that the Celtics went 6-0 against the Hawks during the regular season...Atlanta was in every game right down to the wire. The reason - They match up extremely well against the Celts. With three seven footers and lightning fast speed, they offset the things Boston does well. Dominique will score a ton...so won't Larry. This series should be loaded with excitement but don't anticipate a long one...CELTICS IN FIVE

MILWAUKEE VS. PHILADELPHIA - Home court advantage could be the difference in this one. A healthy Moses Malone could do serious damage against a team that rotates three back up centers in the pivot. The Bucks have a big advantage in backcourt depth. This series should be a dandy. MILWAUKEE IN SEVEN

Eastern Conference Finals

BOSTON VS. MILWAUKEE - The Celtics in the last couple of seasons have finally learned how to beat Milwaukee. They effectively took away their isolation game and with this years added depth at the center position, the Celtics are able to exploit the Bucks biggest weakness for a full 48 minutes. The Bucks will probably keep the score close but.... CELTICS IN FIVE

Western Conference

LOS ANGELES VS. SAN ANTONIO Yes, Artis does play well against Kareem. Yes, maybe LA has been HO-HUMMING it for too long a time. may go the distantce. HOUSTON IN FIVE

Western Conference Semi-Finals

LOS ANGELES VS. DALLAS - The Lakers second round opponent is only slightly more potent than the first. James Donaldson should provide very little trouble for Kareem unless he decides on using his large frame to flatten him. Watch for high scoring in this series...134-125 etc...LA IN FIVE

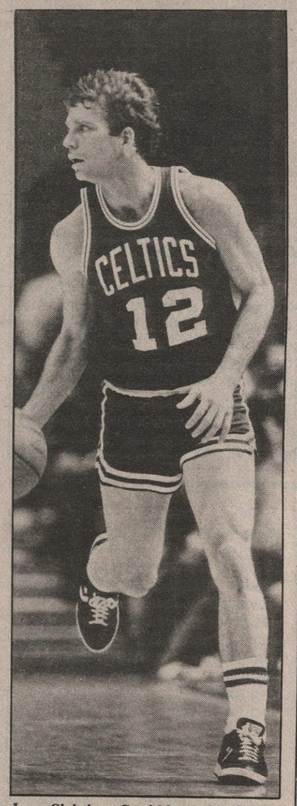
HOUSTON VS. DENVER - This may be one of the best series of the entire playoffs. Both teams exhibit Dr. Jeckyl - Mr. Hyde personalities ... ... Great at home .... terrible on the road. Despite Houston's network TV win last week against the Lakers, I believe the Nuggets would give LA a much rougher time. They play against the Champions with much greater confidence than do Bill Fitch's troops. But their biggest obstacle in the series is that they must win at least a game at the Summit. They probably won't...but they'll take it to the limit...HOUSTON IN SEVEN

Western Conference Finals

LOS ANGELES VS. HOUSTON - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has averaged about forty points per game against the younger Akeem Olajuwon. Will that lone Houston win a week ago instill enough confidence to provide an upset? Forget it! It may be enough to extend the series to six games. LA IN SIX

NBA CHAMPIONSHIP

BOSTON VS. LOS ANGELES - It's the rubber match...Boston won in '84 ...LA in '85. The Celtics should have more depth, a healthier Larry Bird and a hungrier attitude than a year ago when they lost in six games. That attitude factor should not be overlooked. Nobody has won back to back titles since the Celts did it in 1968 and '69. There is a reason. A grueling 82 games regular season...8 pre-season games and a maximum 26 playoff games. It's more of a mental than a physical grind Boston's addition of Bill Walton and Jerry Sichting could also play a major factor in the outcome. Both guys not only give the Celtics the depth they lacked a year ago but both are extremely hungry. One looking for his first taste of championship victory and the other looking for his first taste since 1977. Boston took the two game season series but it's somewhat deceiving in that Magic Johnson was not up to par due to injury in the second encounter. Magic is back at peak but Kareem is a year older. The key for Boston may be to effectively wear down Kareem. With three centers you can challenge him physically for the entire game. The big guy does not like the bumping game. More on this potential series when it becomes reality...But for now ...CELTICS IN SIX



Jerry Sichting: Could be major factor.

No, the Lakers can not lose this series....LA IN THREE

DALLAS VS. UTAH - These two will vie for the right to get beat by the Lakers in the next round. The Mavs play well against the Jazz...DALLAS IN FIVE

DENVER VS. PORTLAND - The Blazers are not the same team without Sam Bowie. They will steal one at home. DENVER IN FOUR

HOUSTON VS. SACRAMENTO - Don't think this is a cake walk for the Rockets. The Kings are extremely tough to beat at home. Houston still has problems at the point guard spot. And the Rockets are the only division winner with a losing road record. The fact that three of the five will be played at the Summit means that they will probably win this series but it

Big Turnaround for Bay State Bombardiers

By Rick Weitzman

1984-85 was not exactly an auspicious debut for the Bay State Bombardiers in their first year in Worcester. They finished the season at 20-28, well out of the playoffs. They returned for 85-86 with a new coach (Mauro Panaggio) and only 2 holdovers (Lamar Harris and Kevin Williams) from the previous year.

This year was quite a reversal, 30-18 at the end of the regular season, and place in their division, and a spot in the playoffs. It wasn't easy though. They began with a 1-5 record after 6 games, made some wholesale changes and started winning (certainly to the relief of Panaggio who was paid by the win). The Bombardiers beat Baltimore in the first round of the playoffs before bowing to Bill Musselman's Tampa Bay Thrillers in 5 games. The Thrillers were backboned by Eric Fernsten (remember him?), a late season pickup.

From a Scout's perspective, the Bombardiers were very interesting to watch for the simple reason that they had some NBA-caliber players. They also put 28 different players into uniform at one time or another this year. Four of their players were called up the NBA during the year, David Thirdkill (Celtics), Chris McNealy and Ken Green (Knicks) and Derrick Rowland (Bucks). They had 6 players with some NBA experience, Kevin Williams, Carlos Clark, John Garris, Michael Adams, Frankie J. Sanders and Ray Tolbert. It seemed as though every game, there was a new face on the roster to write up a report on, some faces simply disappeared before the ink was dry.

They did have some players with NBA potential on their final roster:

Ray Tolbert - The Bombardiers picked him up in a trade with Tampa Bay for Kevin Williams and it turned their season around. Tolbert (who had bounced around the NBA for a few years) gave Bay State solid and enthusiastic play in the middle. At 6'9 he played center (keep in mind that the CBA does not have any true centers of note) and his attitude was superb (unusual for an ex NBA-er in the CBA). His offensive game improved simply because he got the ball more.

Ralph Lewis - at 6'6 he was a Celtic draft choice last year. He started slowly but came on strong in the playoffs (he won a game with a last second 3-pointer. He can shoot and showed some improvement in the rest of his game.

John Garris - acquired in an early season trade with Maine. At times he was brilliant, at other times his concentration wasn't there. The tools are there if he'll give his best each time out. He did rebound well for Bay State.

Michael Adams - after being cut by Sacramento he came here and good things started to happen and people came to see them. Michael went on to win Rookie of the Year honors and they were well-deserved. He was a spark and improved his outside shooting to go along with his dynamic open court game.

Perry Young - also acquired from Maine with Garris. At 6'5 he played forward and needs to pick up more guard skills but he is an explosive offensive performer. It seems as though has attitude improved since college (he played with Dell Curry at Virginia Tech).

Joe Williams - at 6'6 he's a bull on the boards but a little small for the NBA. He works real hard and wins the distinction of being the only Bombardier to remain on the roster from the first day of the season to the last.

Mauro Panaggio - the coach. He did an excellent job of getting his players to play his way. If someone balked, he was gone (i.e. Kevin Williams). He let the referees know he was around (in fact he attacked a ref's car after a game) and was paid by the win. That's pressure. He was named CBA coach of the Year for his efforts.

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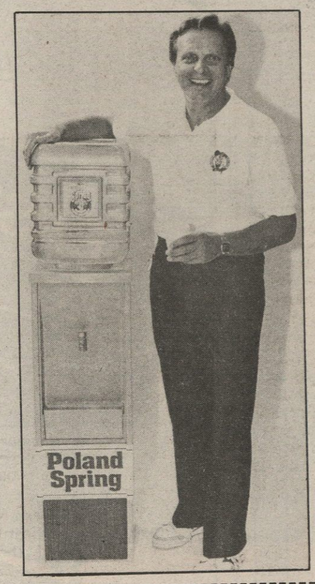

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Bird Edges Ainge and Mullin for Free Throw Title

Celtic forward Larry Bird netted the 1985-86 NBA free throw championship from the Golden State Warriors' Chris Mullin on the last day of the regular season, but Bird also had to elude his teammate and buddy, Danny Ainge, to gain the crown.

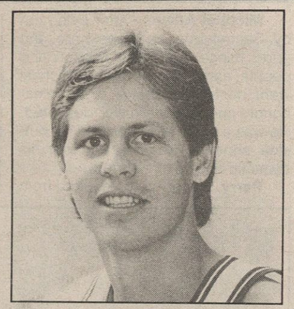
Ainge was averaging just 1.6 free throws a game and needed to toss in 13 against the Nets in that final game to reach 125 free throws made, the minimum needed to qualify for foul shooting title.

Ainge did his darndest, but missed out. He made 11 of 12 from the charity line, which made him two short.

"Danny was deliberately trying to get fouled',, Celtics center Robert Parish said.

Still, Ainge has nothing to be ashamed of. He ended the season missing just 13 times in 136 attempts from the line, a crisp .904 percentage. Bird began the day with a free throw mark of .89484 and had to make five of five from the foul line to overtake Mullin. Mullin had made 189 of 211 for .89573, but was rendered inactive with a sore heel. Bird made all seven one-point shots he took, concluding the campaign 441 of 492 from the line, a .89634 rate.

Larry won the title.



Danny Ainge: Foul Play?

Ainge made five of six free throws in the third quarter after failing to score a single point in the first half. And as Ainge drew closer to qualifying for the title, he drove down the lane nearly every time he had the ball in attempts to draw fouls. In a rare show of levity of the court by Ainge, he was knocked down and got off the floor laughing, realizing how hard he was trying to qualify for the championship.

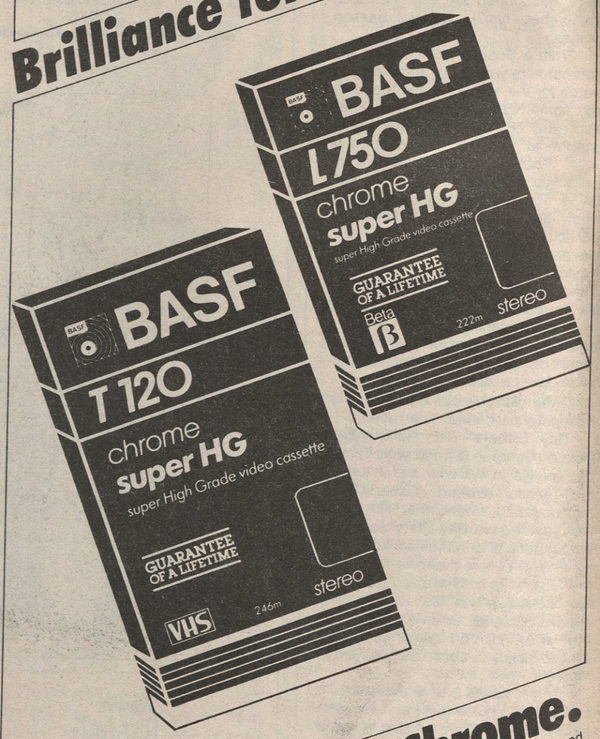
Ainge sank five straight free throws in a span of 1:05, but with 8:58 left in the game, Coach K.C. Jones pulled Ainge from the lineup and replaced him with Rick Carlisle. So much for the free throwing championship.

"If I had gotten fouled again and made the first one, I would have called time out and gone to Larry," Ainge joked. "I would have negotiated to see how much it was worth to him if I missed."

Haggar Sponsors K.C. Jones Poster Giveaway

Fans entering the Boston Garden for the Celtics game against the Detroit Pistons on Wednesday, April 2nd were presented with a beautiful artwork poster featuring K.C. Jones, the Celtics' head coach, courtesy of the Haggar Apparel Company. The artwork, a stunningly accurate likeness of the likeable mentor of the Green and White, is pictured above.

Brilliance forever.



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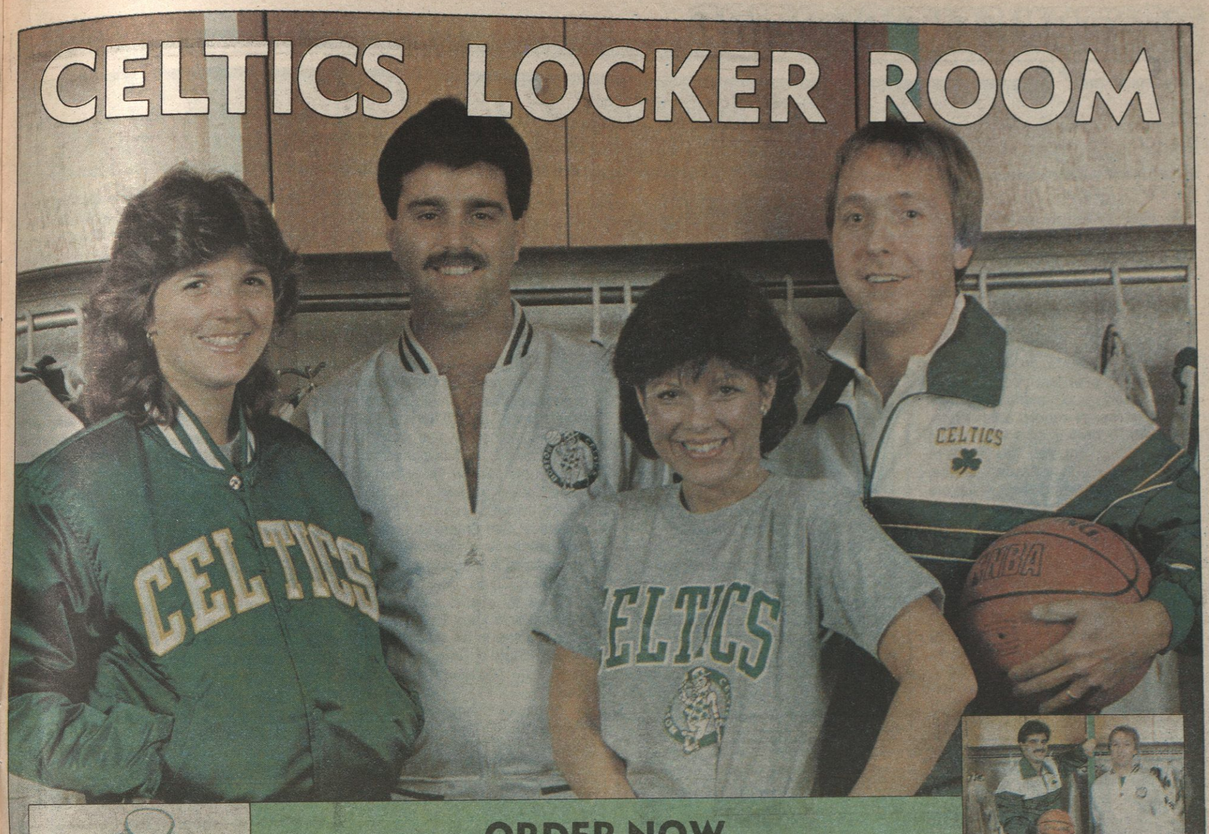

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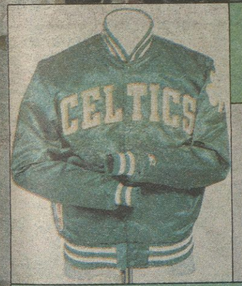

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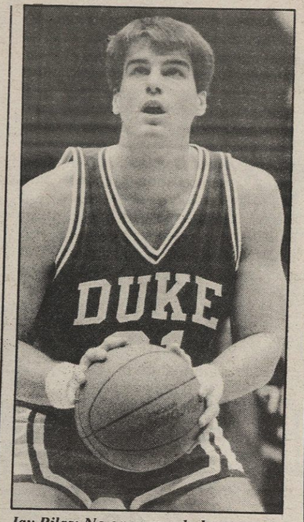
NBA Notebook

By Terry Lyons

NBA regular-season attendance topped the 11 million mark for the first time in the league's 40-year history as a total of 11,214,888 fans attended NBA games during the 1985-86 campaign completed Sunday, April 13.

That represents an increase of 6.7 percent over last year's total of 10,506,355 and marks the third year in a row of record attendance. The Averge crowd of 11,983 also set a record, topping the mark of 11,141 set last season. Dallas, Detroit, Houston and the LA Lakers all set franchise attendance records while the Utah Jazz posted a record for their time in Salt Lake City.

Meanwhile, as 16 teams prepared for the 1986 NBA Playoffs which began April 17, Atlanta's Dominique Wilkins finished with a surge to capture the NBA scoring title, the first Hawks player to do so since Bob Pettit in 1959. Wilkins poured in 57 points against New Jersey on April 10 to take the lead, then added 34 against Indiana on April 12 to finish with an average of 30.33 ppg to edge out Adrian Dantley of Utah, 29.83, and Alex English of Denver, 29.80, both of whom sat out their final game because of injuries. "This is what you dream about, something a lot of guys don't get the chance to accomplish," said Wilkins.



Jay Bilas: No one-armed players.

Among the other statistical leaders, Detroit's Bill Laimbeer held off a late charge by Charles Barkley of Philadelphia and won the rebounding crown at 13.1 rpg, ending Moses Malone's five-year reign; Craig Hodges of Milwaukee shot 4-for-6 in his season finale and edged Trent Tucker of New York, .4506 to .4505, to set a record for three-point accuracy; San Antonio's Alvin Robertson set steals records with a total of 301 and an average of 3.67, beating runnerup Clyde Drexler (2.63) of Portland by over a steal per game, and Boston's Larry Bird went 7-for-7 from the line in his final game to nip Golden State's Chris Mullin for the free-throw shooting title, .8963 to .8957.

Magic Johnson, runnerup to Isiah Thomas a year ago, won the assists title, beating Thomas 12.6 to 10.8. Manute Bol of Washington was the league's top shotblocker at 4.96 per game, his total of 397 blocks being the most for any rookie in NBA history. And Steve Johnson of San Antonio win the field goal accuracy title, shooting .632 to beat out teammate Artis Gilmore, .618.

The defending champion Los Angeles Lakers won the Pacific Division by a record 22 games, breaking the mark of 20 they set a year ago. But the best record in the league belonged to Boston at 67-15, fourth-best in NBA history. That included a 40-1 mark--with 31 in a row--at home, also NBA records.

Among coaches, Boston's K.C. Jones became the first to post four 60-win seasons (1975 Washington and 1984, 1985 and 1986 Boston) and Houston's Bill Fitch became the first to win championships in three different divisions (Cleveland, 1975 Central; Boston, 1980, 1981 and 1982 Atlantic, and Houston, 1986 Midwest).

Finally, the Midwest Division became the first six-team division to have all of its clubs make the playoffs.

* * * * *

SanAntonio Spurs guard **Johnny Moore** has shown improvement in recent weeks, battling back from a bout with a rare form of meningitis. "I'm just happy Johnny Moore's alive," said Spurs Coach **Cotton Fitzsimmons.** Doctors recently performed a spinal tap and determined Moore is making progress...Golden State's **Geoff Huston** is the only player in the league with more assists than points ... The 1986 Goodwill Games promise to be one of the year's best sporting events. WTBS Sports will assign NBA greats **Bill Russell** and **Rick Barry** to the men's basketball action while Atlanta Hawks Coach **Mike Fratello** assists the announce team...The street separating the Philadelphia Spectrum and Kennedy Stadium has been officially named, Zinkoff Blvd. in honor of the late **Dave Zinkoff,** the long-time public address announcer for the 76ers...**Bill Blair,** a former NBA head coach for the New Jersey Nets who was working as chief scout for the Indiana Pacers, was named assistant coach to **Kevin Laughery** of the Washington Bullets. Blair worked with Loughery last season when they were with the Chicago Bulls...A recent article by business expert **Bob Raissman** in *TV Guide* discussed Who's Hot and Who's Not among pro athletes. The NBA claimed two players among the "Hot" category with **Spud Webb** of Atlanta rating high marks "for any advertiser trying to capitalize on the underdog who makes good." Webb was crowned champion of the Gatorade Slam-Dunk contest during the past All-Star Weekend in Dallas. **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** of the LA Lakers was noted for his high status as the game's elder statesman. No NBA players were in the "Who's Not" category...Speaking of the Big Fella...Abdul-Jabbar recently scored his 35,000th career point. The milestone was set during the Lakers' 124-117 win over Golden State on March 30 as Abdul-Jabbar hit a lofty sky-hook in the third quarter. Another note: Duke's 6-8 center **Jay Bilas** was recently asked about his future as a pro basketball player, Said Bilas, "I'd give my right arm to play in the NBA, but I don't think there's any call for one-armed players."

* * * * *

Keep in mind: The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremonies will take place Tuesday, May 6, in Springfield, Mass. NBA great **Billy Cunningham, Tom Heinsohn** and Coach **Red Holzman** will be among the six inductees...The Chicago Bulls have been gradually working All-Star guard **Michael Jordan** back into shape. The club devised a system whereby Jordan plays a specific number of minutes per half, sometimes breaking the playing time up into segments and other times playing full 11 or 12 minute stretches. Jordan has looked fine throughout his comeback from a stress fracture which placed him on the injured list from Nov. 6 to March 14.

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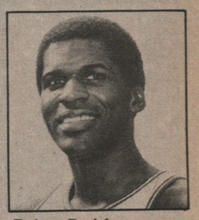
Roundball Spoken Here

Don Nelson

Don Nelson. Bucks' Coach, comments on Celtics' success this season: "They went without Kevin McHale for 14 games a month ago and never missed a beat. That tells you something. Then he came back, blended right in and nobody's feelings were hurt, even though it meant reclaiming someone else's minutes. That is one terriffic team. The coaching's great, the blend's outstanding: It's the best team this league has seen in a long, long time."

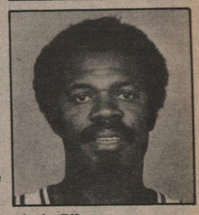
Robert Parish observes about Charles Barkley, 76er Forward: "When he leans on you, it's like being crushed by a trash compactor."


Robert Parish

Larry Bird

Larry Bird offers this opinion of three-point field goals: "You work hard to get a two-point lead and that should be enough. If somebody beats you, they should beat you with a two-point shot, not some gimmick. I've never liked gimmics and that's what this is."

Artis Gilmore describes one feature of Larry Bird's ability to deliver in clutch situations: "He is able to bounce back from whatever people say. Some criticism can really destroy guys. He responds to negative situations."


Artis Gilmore

By the Numbers — April 1 - April 13

The Celtics wrapped up the 1985-86 season Sunday with a smashing win over the New Jersey Nets, 135-107. A type of microcosm of the season: they scored a record 46 points in the 3rd period, outscored the Nets 84-56 in the last half, won the game with their defensive surge, and had Larry Bird clinch the mythical championship in the Free Throw category.

The C's finished 40-1 at home, a new NBA record. They recorded a 67-15 record on the year, the second best in the franchise's history. Finally, they lost two times to only two teams this year; Philadelphia and New Jersey each defeated the C's on the team's final regular season road trip, after the regular season crowns had been garnered.

Kevin McHale. Tommy Heinsohn: "An incredible array of inside moves. And so quick." Rick Weitzman: "A great shooter, besides." McHale ended the regular season on a tear---12-14 FG and 6-6 FT in 117-104 win over Cavs, April 11. Followed that with 11-13 for 24 points in Sunday's finale against Nets.

Larry Bird. His 3rd MVP in a row is a lock. Missed the critical free throws against Sixers in 95-94 loss, April 6th. Predictably, bounced back with 26 points-11 rebounds off bench against Bucks. Concluded season with FT championship, and 26-point, 4 rebounds, 3-assist, 2-steal, 1-block effort against Nets. Had a triple double against Pistons, April 2nd and Sixers: Against Detroit: 29 points, 11 rebounds, 13 assists; 18 points, 10 rebounds, 10 assists vs. Sixers.

Robert Parish Limited playing time after title was clinched. Scored 30 with 18 rebounds and 3 blocks against Pistons, however, grabbed 11 rebounds against Sixers, 13 against Nets on Sunday. Commented before New Jersey game Sunday that he needs a hard week of practice to prepare for playoffs.

Dennis Johnson. Had DNP against Milwaukee April 8th. 22 points, 5 rebounds against Philadelphia. 12 points, 4 assists against Knicks, April 4; and began sharpening play for this week's playoff against Michael Jordan with 16 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, and 2 steals vs. Cavs.

Danny Ainge. Best effort was 17 points, 2 assists, 1 steal vs. Knicks. Scored 13, including 11-13 from Free Throw line when he nearly overhauled Bird for Free Throw championship on Sunday. Ainge scored in double figures in 16 of final 25 games and led team in assists 22 times this season.

Bill Walton. Significant stats: this season he played in career high 80 games for an average of 19.6 minutes per game. Pulled off 6.9 rebounds per game, blocked 105 shots; pulled down double figure rebounds 17 times this season, and blocked shots in 20 of final 29 games. Legitimate contender for Comeback Player of the Year and 6th Man Award.

Jerry Sichting. If ever there was a player made for basketball sophisticated audience in Boston, it's the blonde tiger Sichting. 12 points on 5-7 shooting vs. Cavs in 21 minutes. Shot 42-61 .693 in final 10 games. Strong stuff---it reinforces his .571 shooting for entire season. His 48 minutes projection is 16 points per game, considerable; he scored every three minutes of playing time.

Kevin McHale: Inside Moves.

Scott Wedman. Injured during Milwaukee game but came back for strong run in New Jersey contest Sunday after missing two games. Entered game Sunday in 2nd quarter and immediately connected on a 3-point field goal and another long jump shot. 9 points in 13 minutes and added 4 rebounds and 1 assist.

Rick Carlisle. Coaching staff gave 2nd year pro long playofftype look during final week. Started against Milwaukee (with entire Green Team); scored 8 points, with 5 assists and 4 rebounds in 28 minutes vs. Bucks and followed this with 26 minute stint vs. Nets: 3-5 FG, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, and 1 steal against New Jersey in C's loss at Meadowlands. Ended year with 10-point, 3-rebound, 2-steal, 1-assist effort in 16 minutes vs. Nets Sunday.

David Thirdkill. Closed season with strong effort against Bucks, Cavs, and Nets. Scored 8 with 3 rebounds, 2 steals against Bucks (also in starting effort). Against Cleveland, set career high with 7 free throws made en route to a 9 point, 3-assist, 1-rebound night. Finished season on a run: in 7 minutes, 3-3 FG, 2-2 FT, with steal against Nets, April 13. This season: career high in scoring (20), FGA, FTM, REB (8), Blocks.

Greg Kite. Started with Green Team against Bucks, April 8th. Ejected from that game. In 18 minutes against Nets, Sunday, played a particularly strong game: 4 points, 5 rebounds, 2-4 FT, 1 block. Tied career high in rebounding against Knicks, April 4th, grabbing 10 in 21 minutes. Added 4 points and 2 blocked shots.

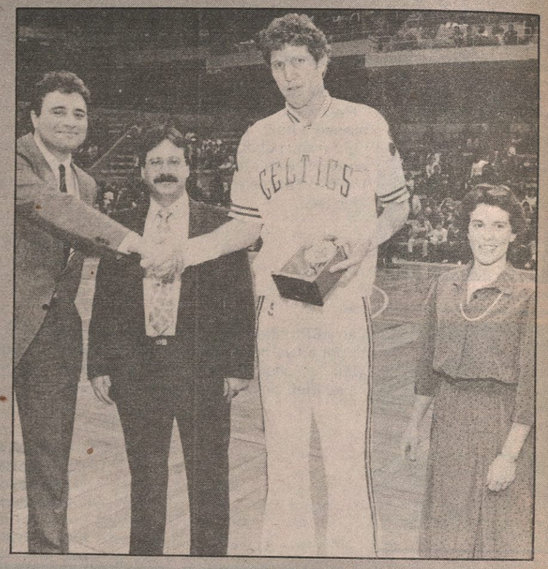
Sam Vincent. Sustained progress in rookie season. For example, he scored and was productive in the last 21 games he entered and made his final 22 free throws. 4 points, 2 assists vs. Nets, Sunday. Scored 10 with 1 rebound against Knicks, April 4. Four points, 2 assists in 13 minutes against Nets, April 9. Forty-eight minute projection telling: 20.4 ppg, 7.6 assists.

New Englanders Win National Pepsi Hotshot Team Championship

Six young athletes from New England traveled to Denver, Colorado last month to compete in the 1985-86 Pepsi/NBA Hotshot Program.

Representing the Celtics, and calling themselves the Junior Celtics, they brought home the national championship in the team competition. At halftime of the Celtics game against the New Jersey Nets on Sunday, April 13th they were honored with a presentation to the Boston Garden crowd.

The winners, pictured above being presented their trophy by Dianne Kerrissey of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, are: Sammy Voolich, Margie Meara and Kathy Mangan of Somerville, Mass., Heath Savage and Richard Drummond from Presque Isle, Maine, and Holly Thibodeau from Caribou, Maine.



Walton Named Midas Unsung Hero

At halftime of the Celtics game on April 4th against the New York Knicks, Bill Walton was named the Midas Unsung Hero of the Month. Presenting a beautiful Seiko clock to Bill in the photo above are Norman and Janet Wolbrom of Midas, Stu Siden of WRKO Radio, and Jay Gebstein of Wells, Rich and Greene.

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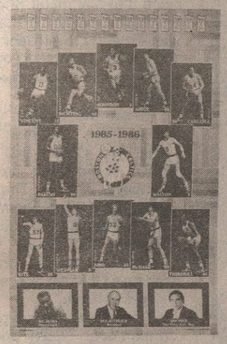

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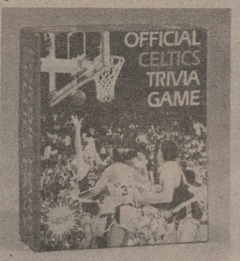

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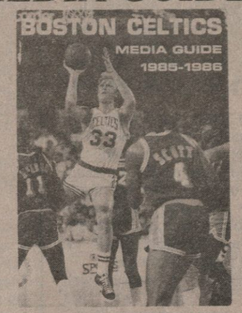

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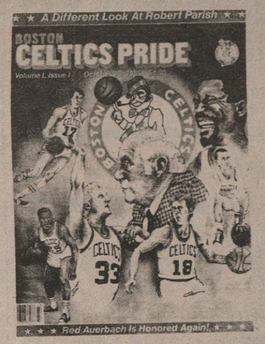

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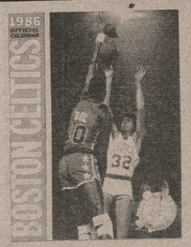

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Celtics Classics

Bill Sharman
Player to be Named Later

The Celtics had already planted the seeds for a contending club in the 1950-51 season when they acquired the likes of Bob Cousy, Ed Macauley and Chuck Cooper. Boston had also commissioned young Red Auerbach to coach the team, and he would obviously move onward to legendary status.

But the Celtics didn't quite have all the pieces to the puzzle. They came one step closer to reaching that end when they drafted Bill Sharman, a guard out of USC, who had some major-league baseball experience with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Actually, Sharman rode the Dodgers pine-- he never played a game Brooklyn.

The acquistion of Sharman was Auerbach's first coup with the Celtics. The season before, Auerbach traded the rights to Charlie Share (the player Boston chose over Bob Cousy in the draft) for Gabby Harris, $10,000 and a player to be named later. The money was used to buy Bob Brannum from Sheboygan. Sharman turned out to be the other player.

Sharman had been with the Washington Capitols in '50-51, who folded midway through the following campaign. The Ft. Wayne Pistons were awarded Sharman, and he responded by leading the team with a 12.2 scoring average. However, Sharman went off to play winter baseball instead of joining the Pistons, wanting to get a head start on the Dodger spring training camp.

When Auerbach wanted Sharman as the player to be named later, the Pistons willingly gave him up, since Sharman had stated baseball was his first priority and basetball served as means of making extra money and keeping him in shape during the offseason. So Sharman became property of the Celtics to wrap up the Share deal.

Bill Sharman: A pure Shooter.

And how, you might ask, did Sharman wind up with the Celtics uniform on, considering he wanted to play winter-league baseball?

One day, Sharman and Clyde King, a Brooklyn teammate, were in Boston for a series against the Boston Braves, and decided to drop by Boston Arena for a workout. It didn't take observers long to see Sharman could play roundball just a bit.

Auerbach caught wind of this performance and went all out to sign Sharman, offering him a $14,000 salary. Now that may not sound like much, but that made Sharman one of the highest players in the league, and was especilly significant because the Celtics were teetering on the brink of financial ruin back then. Sharman signed.

When the season opened five weeks later, Sharman scored 19 points and Cousy had 25, as the Celtics rolled over the Indianpolis Olympians, 97-65. The next game, Cousy had 24 and Sharman 22.

The rest, as they say, is history. Sharman and Cousy went on to become the number-one backcourt tandem of that era and earn places in the Hall of Fame.

"Sharman was perpetual motion on the floor," Cousy once said. "He never stopped moving without the ball. For a passer like me, this was ideal, because I could always pick him out, And when Bill got the ball, he was the greatest shooter to ever come along."

Sharman proved that assertion to be correct, as he was third on the team in scoring with a 10.7 norm. Cousy's 21.7 scoring average placed him third in the league, so the Celtics had one potent offensive backcourt. And of course, not only could Cousy put the ball in the basket, he was the premier point guard of his day--one of the best ever to grace the NBA."

"That was the season Cousy started to come into his own," Auerbach said. "Although he was till a little rough around the edges, he had all his confidence and was beginning to take charge out there. And now he had the ideal partner to pass the ball to, Bill Sharman.

"With Bill, it didn't matter how Bob threw the ball--over his head or behind his back or what. Sharman was going to catch it and put up his jump shot. Bill was the best pure shooter I ever saw. Sharman and Cousy were a great combination. A great combination."

The great combination enabled the Celtics to finish second in the NBA Eastern Division, a game behind the powerful Syracuse Nationals. Unfortunately for Sharman, the good fortune ended after Boston defeated the Knicks in the playoff opener. The Celtics lost the next two games and were bounced from the postseason foray. Sharman, in fact, didn't play at all in the series because he contracted chicken pox.

Despite that unhappy ending, Sharman would turn out to be a pox for the opposition for many years to come.

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Past and Present

Celtics Greats

Gerald Henderson

Even though the Celtics wound up the regular season with the best record in the NBA, they are going to have one of the premier draft picks when the annual NBA collegiate player mart takes place in June. And for that, Boston can thank the Seattle SuperSonics.

When the Sonics aquired Henderson, who had spent five years with the Celtics (1979-80 to 1983-84) prior to the start of the '84-85 season, they surrendered a 1986 first-round draft pick to Boston to complete the deal.

The Sonics were at least competitive in those days and didn't think the first-round selection would amount to much.

Wrong.

It so happens that the Sonics have slid out of playoff contention and into the draft lottery the last two seasons. Unfortunately for them, the Celtics will be drawing the name out of the hat.

Meanwhile, Henderson has etched a decent career for himself in the Pacific Northwest, despite reports that he was in the doghouse of rookie coach Bernie Bickerstaff during the recently-concluded campaign.

Henderson played well under ex-Coach Lenny Wilkens a year ago, averaging 13.4 points and 7.1 assists a night, while shooting .479 from the floor. He was one of the few bright spots in what was a disastrous year for the Sonics, who were an NBA power just a few years before.

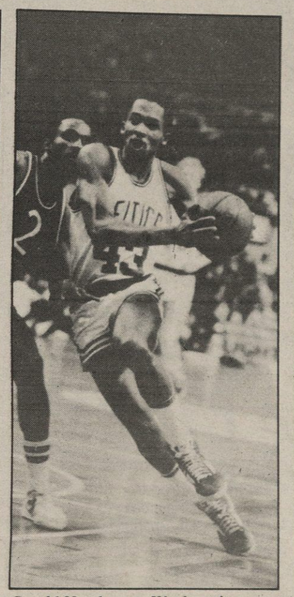
The Sonics didn't improve much this year and Henderson may have fallen out of favor for a while, but he's come through with another good season. Henderson averaged about 13 points and six assists a game, shooting 48 percent from the floor. He started every game for the Sonics in 1985-86.

What helped Henderson's performance is a change from point guard to big guard. At 6-2, 175-pounds, Henderson might be slightly undersized for the two guard role, but he's quicker than most of the people assigned to guard him, and uses that to his advantage.

"The change was welcomed," the 30-year-old Henderson says. "Now I have the opportunity to do other things.

"As the point guard, you have to make sure someone else gets the ball. You have to pick the opportunity to score yourself."

Bickerstaff was quite pleased with the way Henderson looked at his new position. In fact, don't look for Henderson to be anywhere else but at the off guard slot when training camp opens next fall.



Gerald Henderson: Works at it.

"Gerald was very consistent the last two months of the year," Bickerstaff says. "I'm very pleased with his efforts as a player. He's a professional." Henderson, a product of Virginia Commonwealth, feels the position suits him just fine.

"I guess this year Bernie wanted consistency from the shooting guard spot," Henderson says. "I know I can put the ball in the hole. I know I can find a way to score some kind of way."

Henderson proved he was a major-league guard during his tenure with the Celtics, spending much of his time in the starting lineup. He helped the Celtics to an NBA title in 1983-84, when he averaged 11.6 points and a shade below four assists a game and shot .524 from the field. That was his finest campaign as a professional.

Henderson was also a key member of the squad which captured the nba spoils three years previous to that.

But the Celtics, feeling confident about their backcourt depth and wanting to keep an eye for the future, traded Henderson to Sonics for the future draft pick on October 16, 1984.

Henderson had come a long way with the Celtics. Originally drafted by the San Antonio Spurs as the league's 64th choice on the third round in 1978, Henderson was cut by the Spurs and spent a year with the Tucspn Gunners of the Western Basketball Association. The Celtics signed Henderson as a free-agent the following summer, and he made the grade.

However, it was time for Henderson to move onward to another phase of his career.

To some, the trade might seem embarrassing to Henderson. After all, Boston has enjoyed great success, while Henderson has been saddled on a team which has been at the bottom rung of the Pacific Division the past two seasons. Quite a comedown for a man who owns a pair of Celtics World Championship rings.

Henderson, though, refuses to look at the trade from the negative light.

"Everybody wants to be a coach or a general manager," Henderson says. "Everybody has his own opinion about a good trade or a bad trade."

"The problem is, no one ever sees the individual involved as a person. People forget to look at it as a (player) deal. I didn't have anything to do with the trade. I have to live with it and not let it affect the other aspects of my life."

Based on Henderson's output on the floor, it's obvious he isn't just talking. He has put aside thoughts about the trade and has done a good job for the Sonics.

Henderson's attitude on the court is commendable, but his attitude away from the hardwood is even more so. If you're looking for a role model, Henderson wouldn't be a bad choice.

"This career is like a tree," Henderson says. "Those guys who want to get into drugs and hang out late at night are going to be branches. But the guys who put time into it and works on it, will keep growing. That's the philosophy of how I base my life."

Celtics' Tod Rosensweig congratulates Jeff.

Jeff Rome -- Polaroid Fan of the Month

In attendance at the Boston Garden for the game between the Celtics and the New Jersey Nets on Sunday, April 13th was the final winner of the Polaroid/Boston Celtics Fan of the Month Contest, Jeff Rome of Chestnut Hill, Mass. As winner of the Fan of the Month, Mr. Rome received two tickets to the game, a night at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Boston, limousine transportation to and from the game courtesy of Boston Livery Service, an official Celtics Starter jacket, an autographed team basketball and a Polaroid Sun 660 Autofocus camera with film.

Fans of the Celtics should stay tuned until next year for the resumption of the Boston Celtics/Polaroid Fan of the Month Contest, when you can get the royal treatment from Polaroid, the official instant camera of the Boston Celtics.

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